嵐の夜に悪魔の棲む館に火が灯った。
久しぶりの人の血を肺けた晩餐会。
主の眼は愉悦と興奮で輝らつく。
が、今宵の生贄は羊ではなかった。
羊どころか漆黒の魔界からやってきた
得体の知れない不気味な獣。
後に裏社会で神域の男と呼ばれる男、赤木しげるだった!!

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AKAGI●Nobuyuki Fukumoto
Kindai Mahjong Comics

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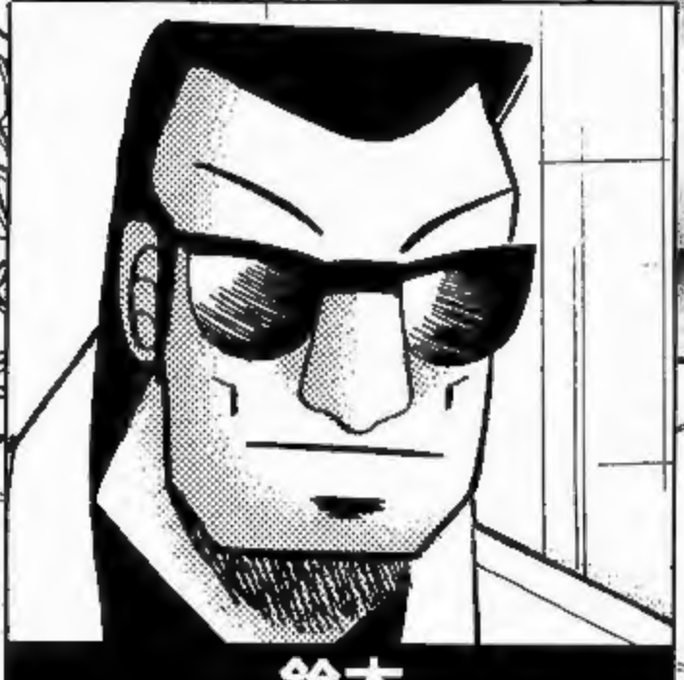
赤木しげる



鈴木

鷲巣の部下。今回の対局の鷲巣のアシスタント役。

鷲巣

権力を利用して巨万の富を築いた老人。麻雀で若者の命をもて遊ぶ。

登場人物紹介

時は昭和40年。「異端」「神域」と称されるその闘牌で、赤木しげるは裏社会に伝説を築き続けていた…。アカギ・仰木・安岡の3人は、殺人鬼・鷲巣を狩るため、生き血を賭けた勝負・鷲巣麻雀に挑んだ……！

（鷲巣麻雀概要）基本的にアカギが半荘6回戦を戦い抜けばアカギ側の勝利。途中でアカギが絶命すれば、それまでに得た現金も全て没収、鷲巣側の勝利となる。●レート……1000点＝1000万円＝血液100cc。アカギと鷲巣のサシ勝負。ウマ（1万・3万）・オカを加算したポイント差で半荘ごとに精算。アカギの致死量2000ccは点棒2万点に相当し、鷲巣の現有資産5億円は50万点に相当する。●ガラス牌……1種4牌のうち3枚が透明ガラス牌。●ボーナス払い……半荘精算以外にも、アカギと鷲巣の間で直接点棒の移動があった場合には、その局ごとに血液or現金をやりとりする。●鷲巣側の特例……半荘2回を区切りとして勝負を続行するか途中終了するかを、鷲巣側のみ選択できる。

仰木

稲田組の若頭。安岡の誘いに乗りアカギを使って鷲巣に挑戦する。

安岡

不良刑事。アカギを立てて鷲巣の資産5億円を奪おうとしている。

目次

◉『近代麻雀』平成10年4月号～平成10年12月号所載

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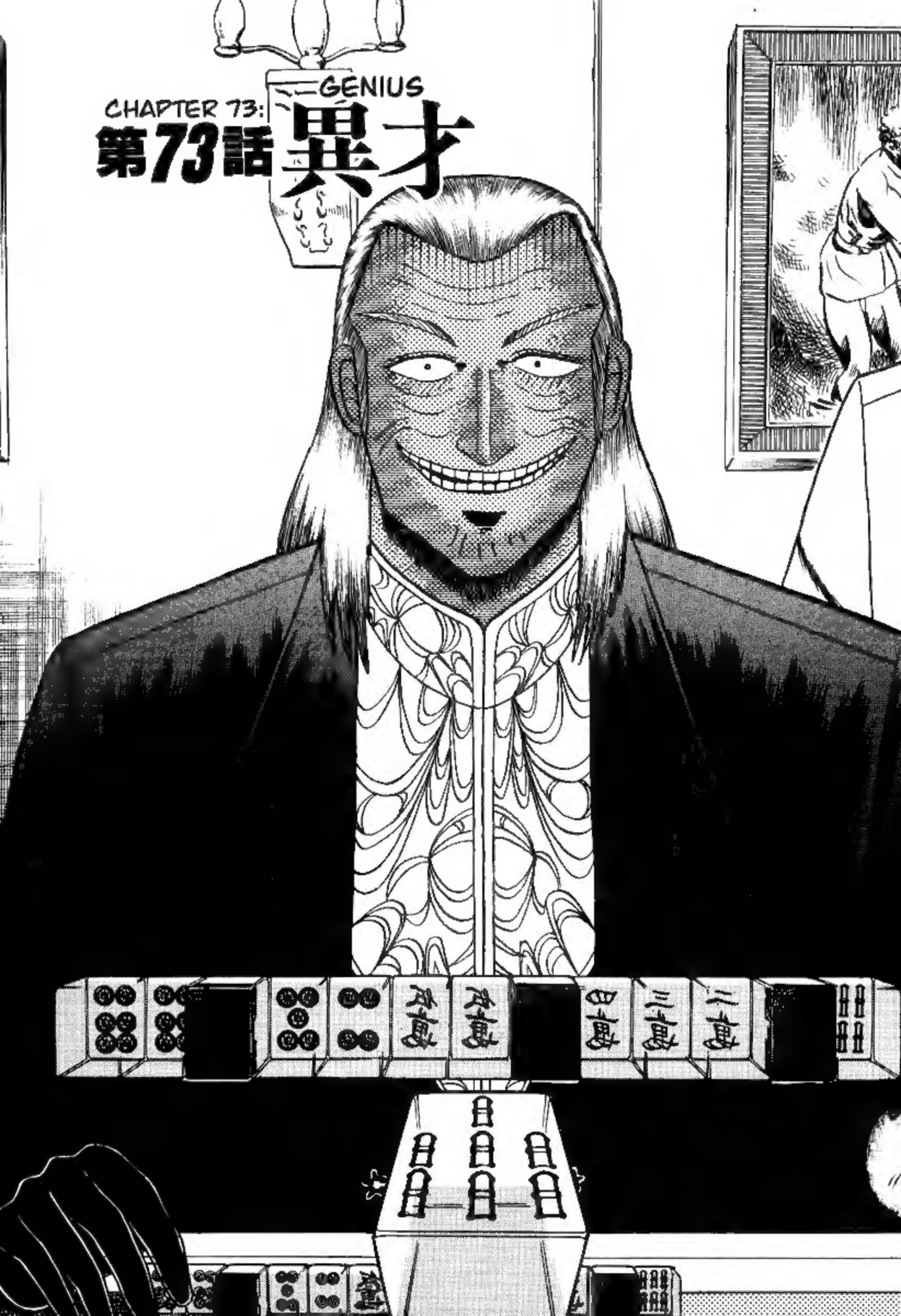
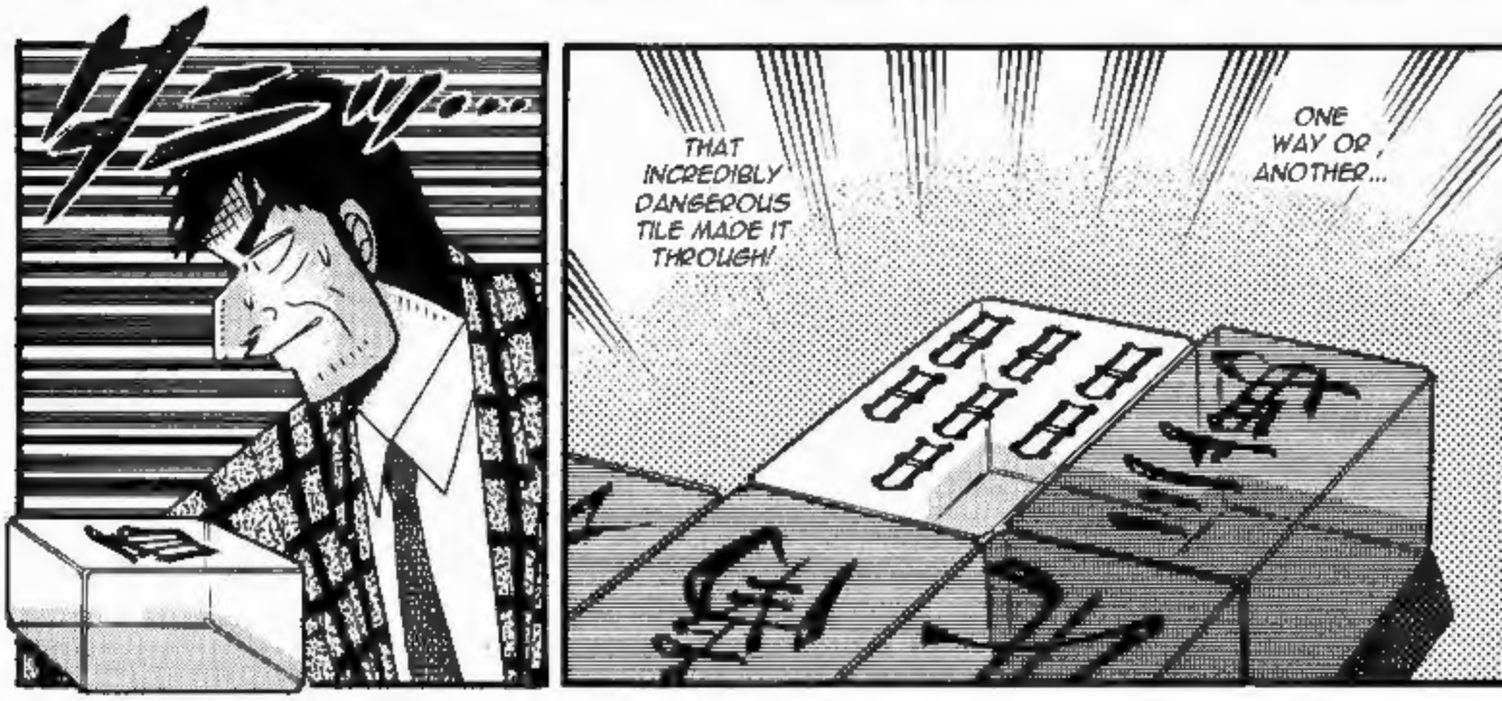
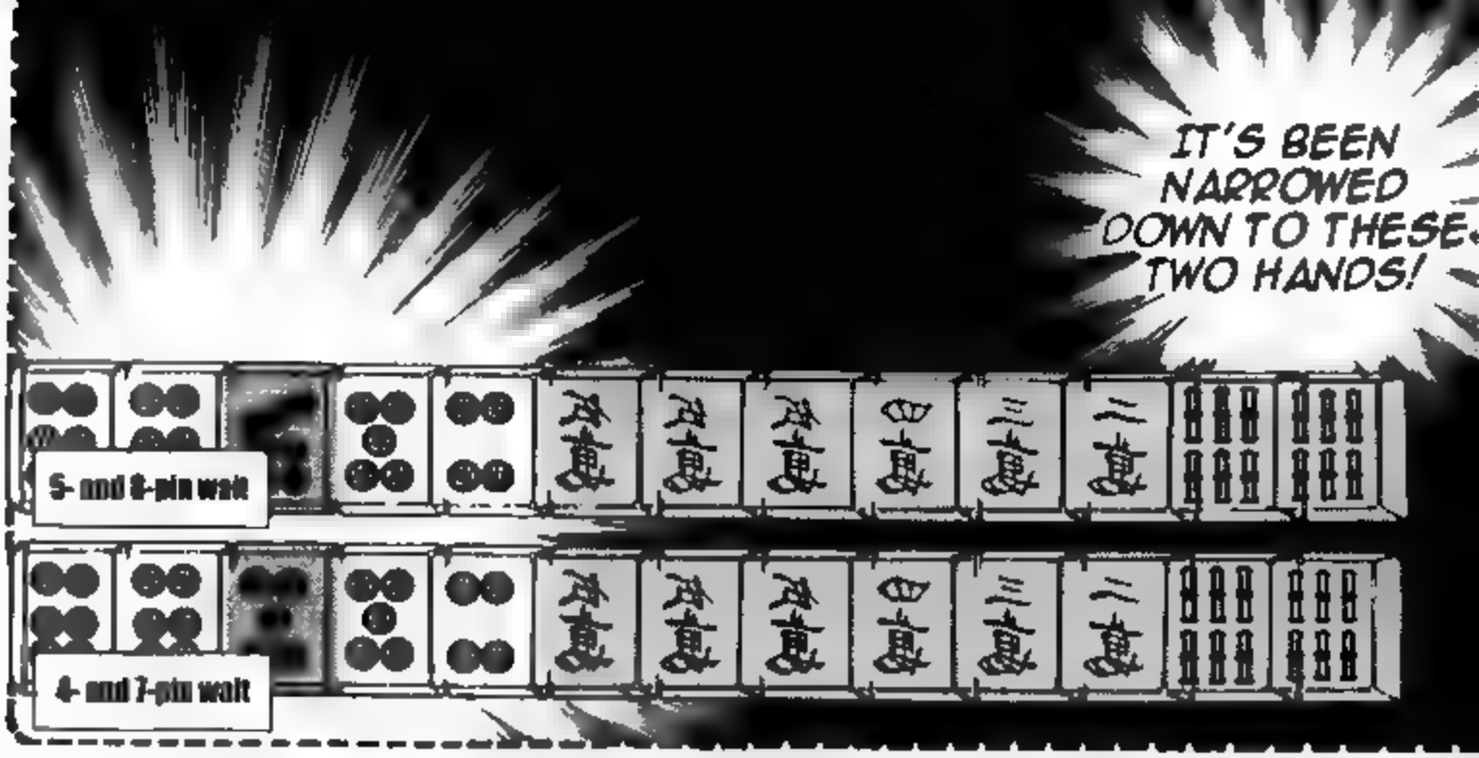

CHAPTER 73:
GENIUS
第73話 異才

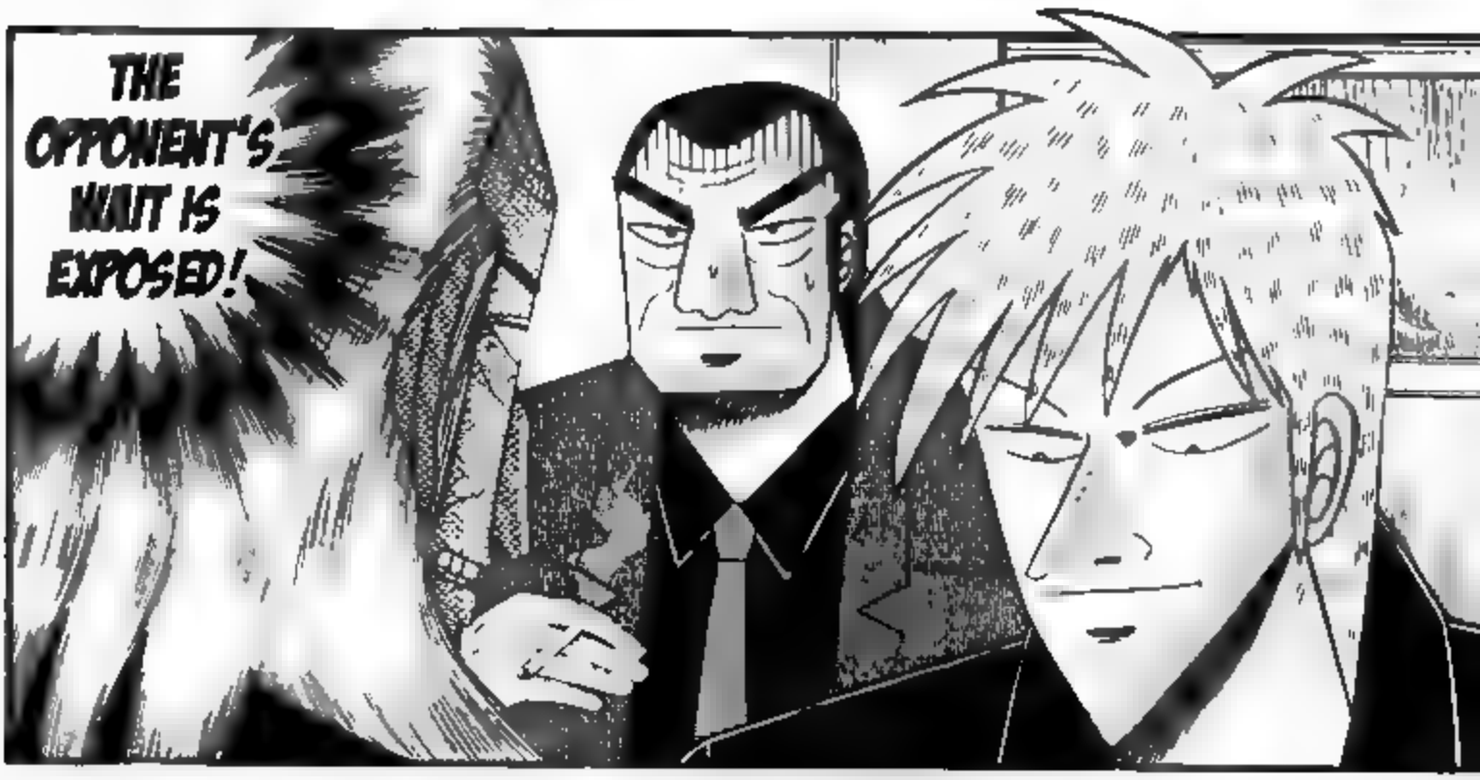
KHEH-HEH-HEH...
Washizu: 32,000 points, -1 Million Yen
ざわ...
ざわ...
First Session, East 4th Round, 0 Honba
Akagi: 30,000 points, no lost blood
After this discard...
DOES HE HAVE SOME KIND OF ASSURANCE THAT THIS 7-SOU WILL PASS...?
OR MAYBE...
DID HE PLAY THE 7-SOU HALF IN DESPERATION...?
HOW...?
ざわ...
Goes to take his draw.
The still-surprised Yasuoka...
This explosive, forceful discard by Akagi...
.....
THAT HE HAS TO PLOW FORWARD?
DOES HE THINK...
THAT KIND OF TILE?
HOW CAN YOU PLAY...

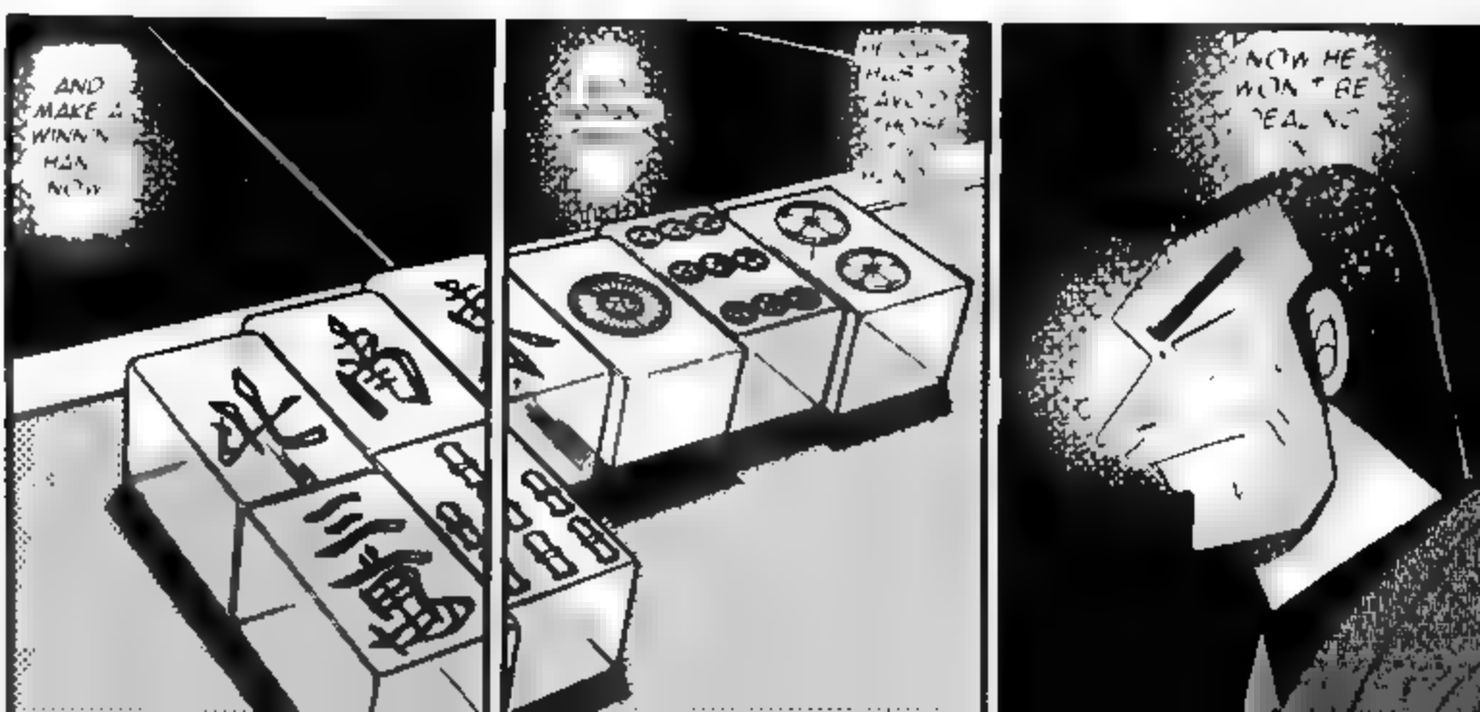
IT PASSED...!!
.....

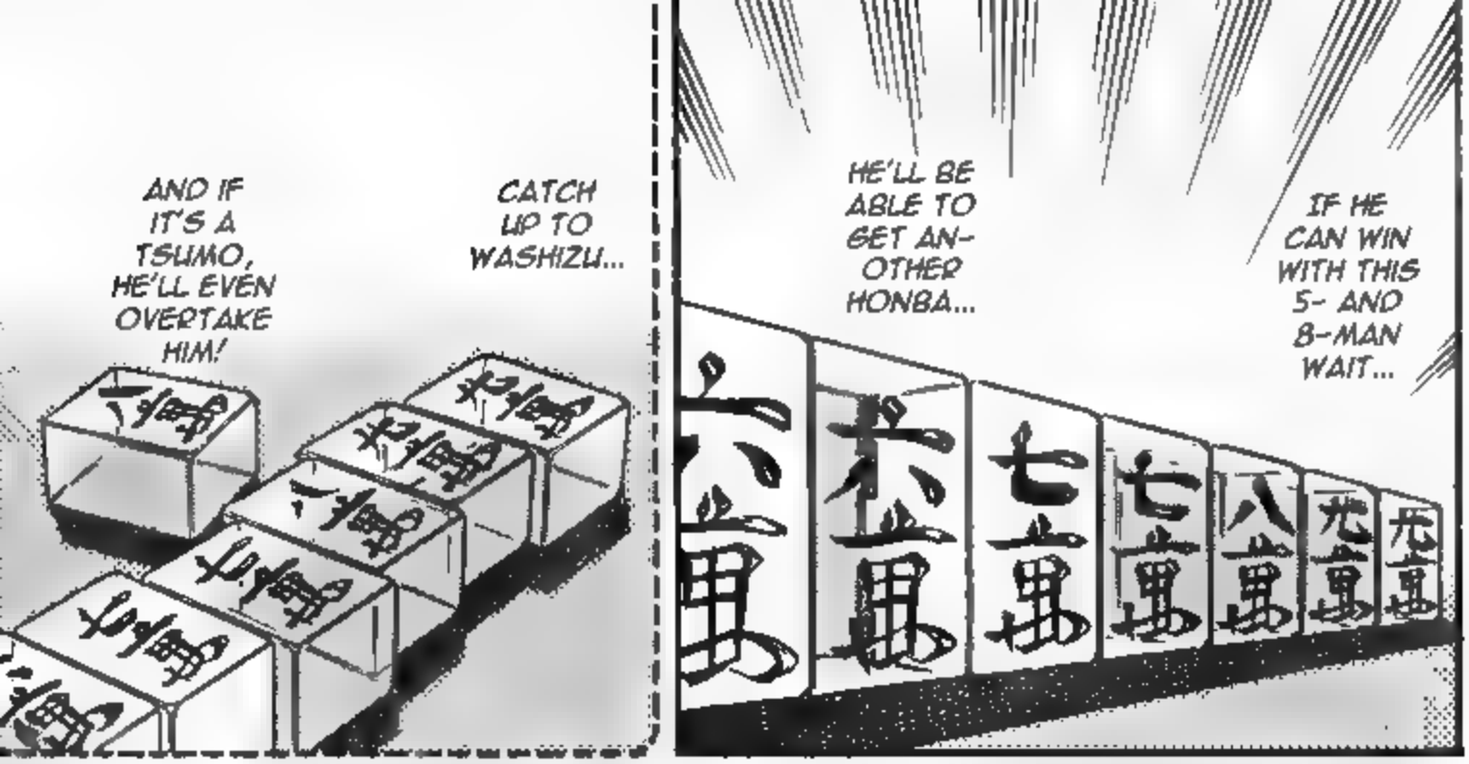

THAT INCREDIBLY DANGEROUS TILE MADE IT THROUGH!
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...

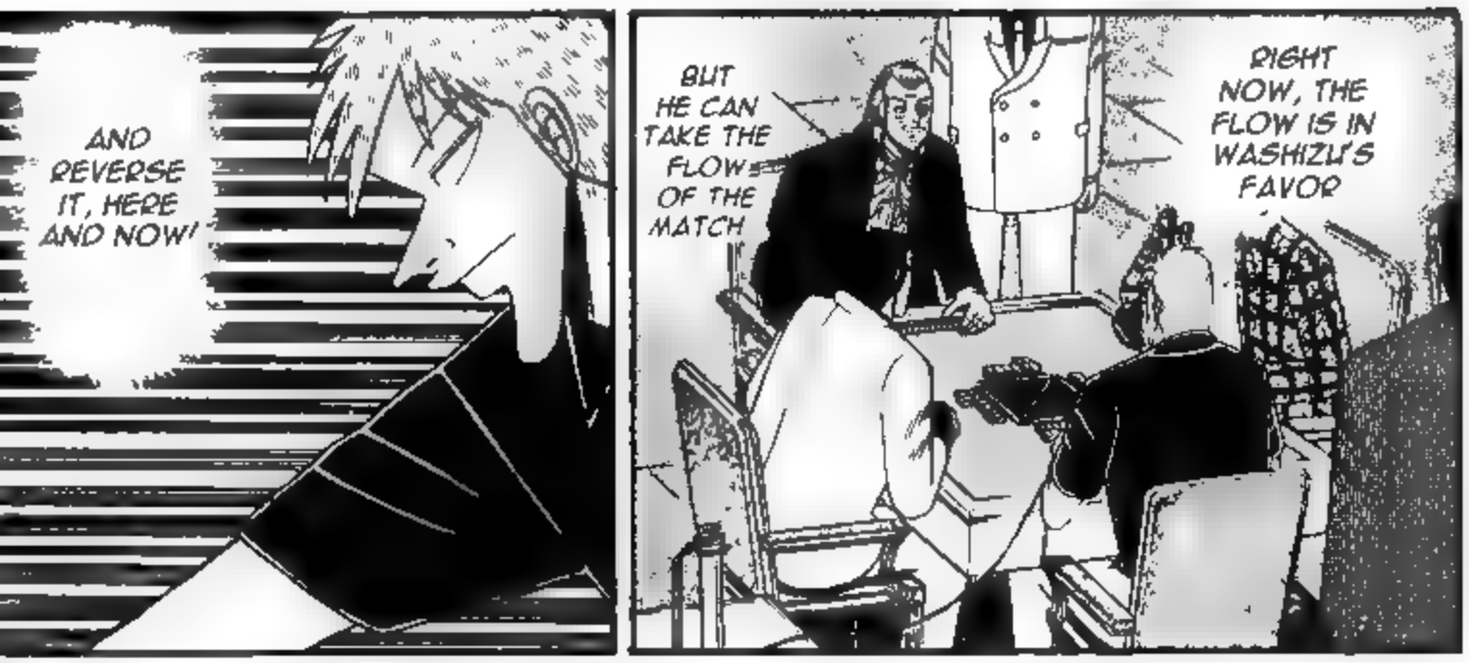
ASSUMING WASHIZU IS IN TENPAI
SO WHAT THAT MEANS
AND THAT EXTRA 6-PIN IS PART OF
IS THAT THE 6-SOU IS HIS PAIR


IT'S BEEN NARROWED DOWN TO THESE TWO HANDS!
5- and 8-pin wait
4- and 7-pin wait

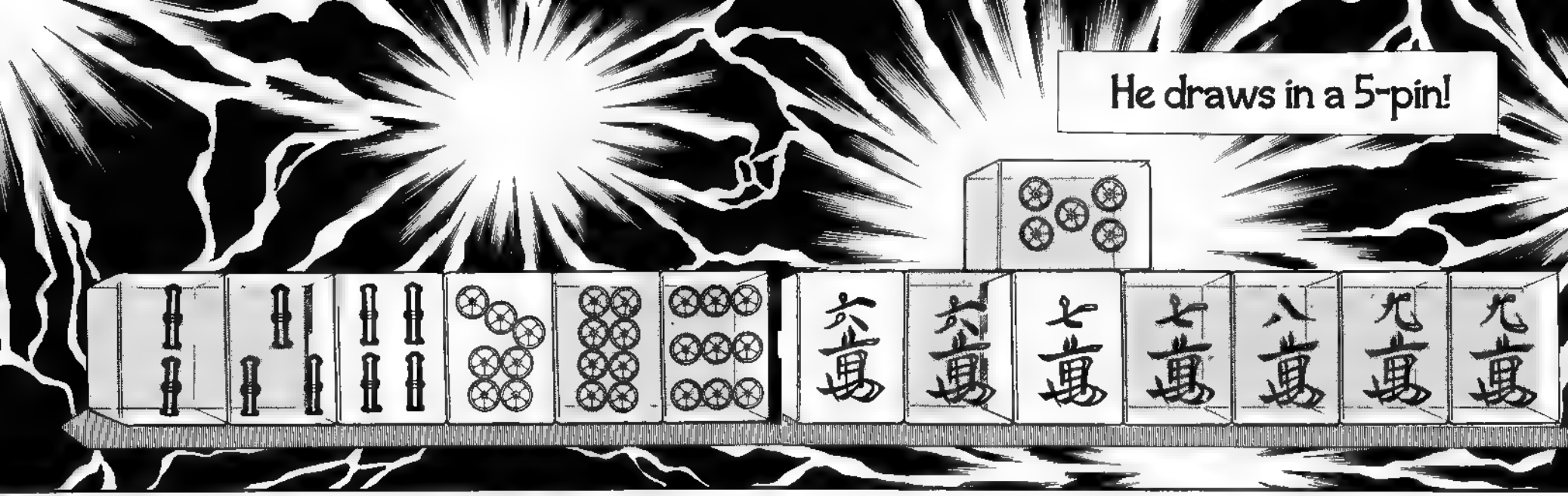

THE OPPONENT'S WAIT IS EXPOSED!


AND MAKE A WINNING HAN NOW
NOW HE WON'T BE

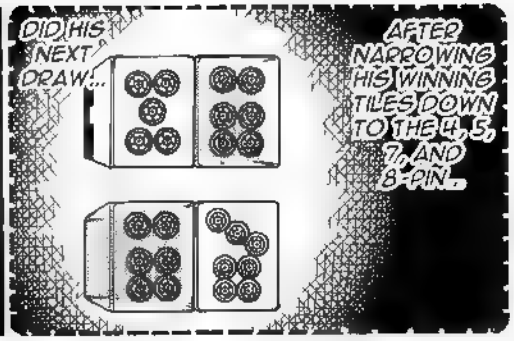

AND IF IT'S A TSUMO, HE'LL EVEN OVERTAKE HIM!
CATCH UP TO WASHIZU...
HE'LL BE ABLE TO GET ANOTHER HONBA...
IF HE CAN WIN WITH THIS 5- AND 8-MAN WAIT...

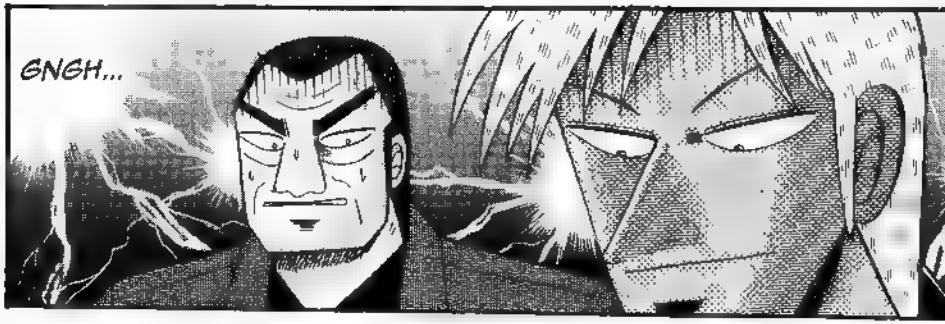

AND REVERSE IT, HERE AND NOW!
BUT HE CAN TAKE THE FLOW OF THE MATCH
RIGHT NOW, THE FLOW IS IN WASHIZU'S FAVOR

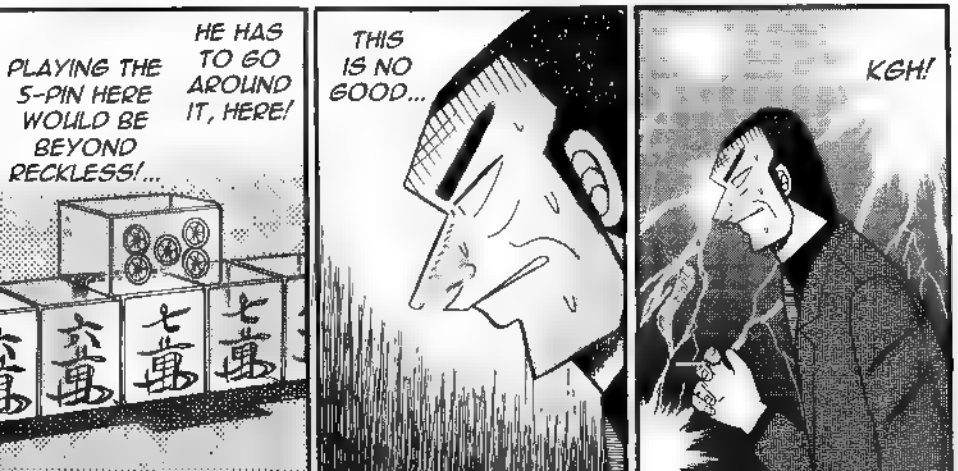
But, on the next turn...


He draws in a 5-pin!

REALLY HAVE TO BE THE 5-PIN?!


DID HIS NEXT DRAW...
AFTER NARROWING HIS WINNING TILES DOWN TO THE 4, 5, 7, AND 8-PIN...


GNGH...


PLAYING THE 5-PIN HERE WOULD BE BEYOND RECKLESS!...
HE HAS TO GO AROUND IT, HERE!
THIS IS NO GOOD...
KGH!

OF ALL THE THINGS, A 5-PIN?!
HOW COULD THIS HAP-PEN?
NO WAY...

IT'S ONLY THE EAST 4TH ROUND
MAYBE THEN HE COULD PLAY IT, BUT
AND HE HAD TO WIN NO MATTER WHAT.
MAYBE IF IT WERE THE LAST ROUND..
RIGHT NOW, HE CAN'T!
The Hand of Washizu's Underling
HE HAS NO OTHER OPTION RIGHT NOW!
HE SHOULD JUST BACK OFF!

AHH...!!

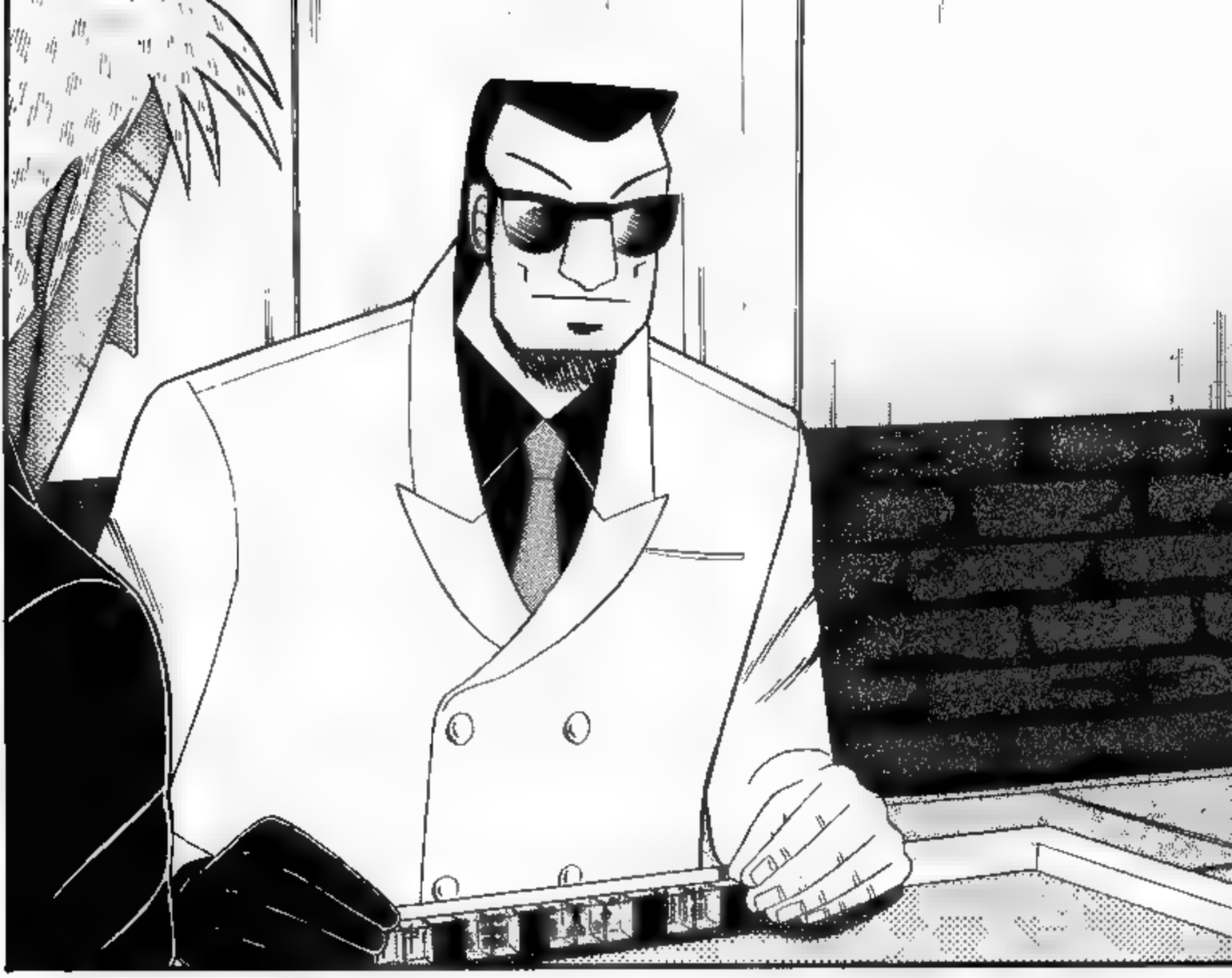
NO WAY!!
NNGH..!!
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, AKAGI?!
KHEH-HEH-HEH...
THIS IS GOING TOO FAR!!

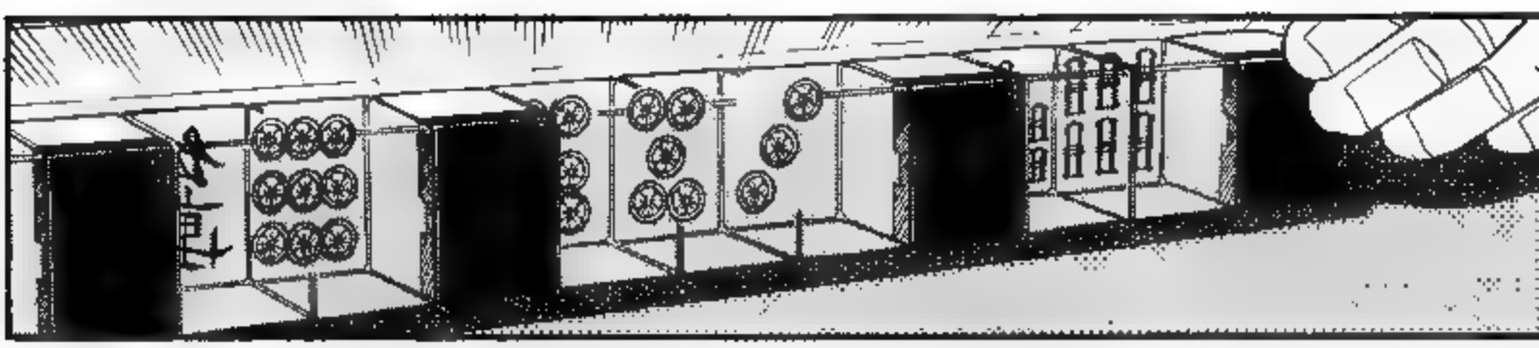
I SEE...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AREN'T COMPLETE TRASH, AT LEAST.

YOU MIGHT BE A BIT OF A MATCH FOR ME, AFTER ALL.
NOR-MALLY
EVEN IF ONE CATCHES ON TO THE SECOND POND

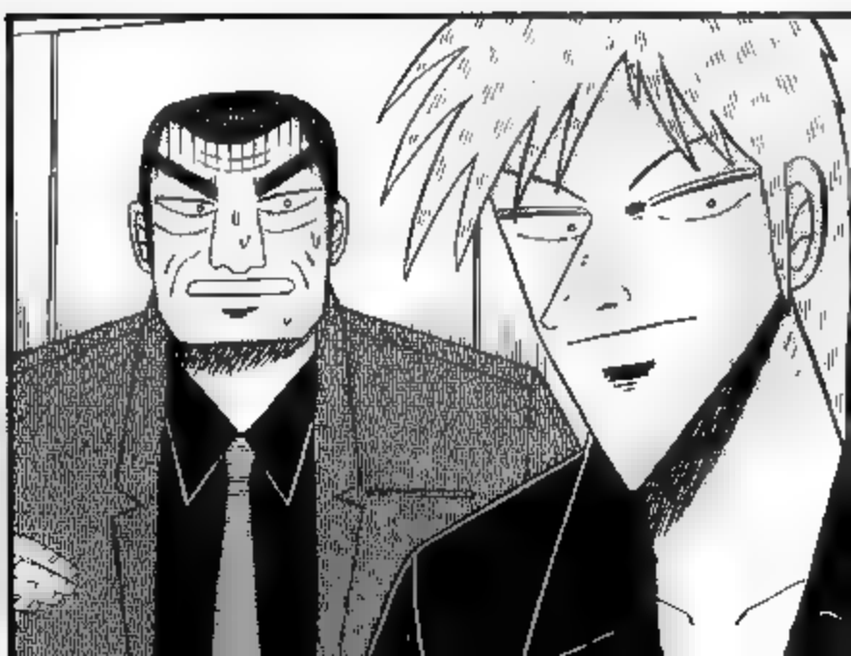
THEY CANNOT BE SO BOLD AS THAT.
KHEH-HEH-HEH...
Washizu...

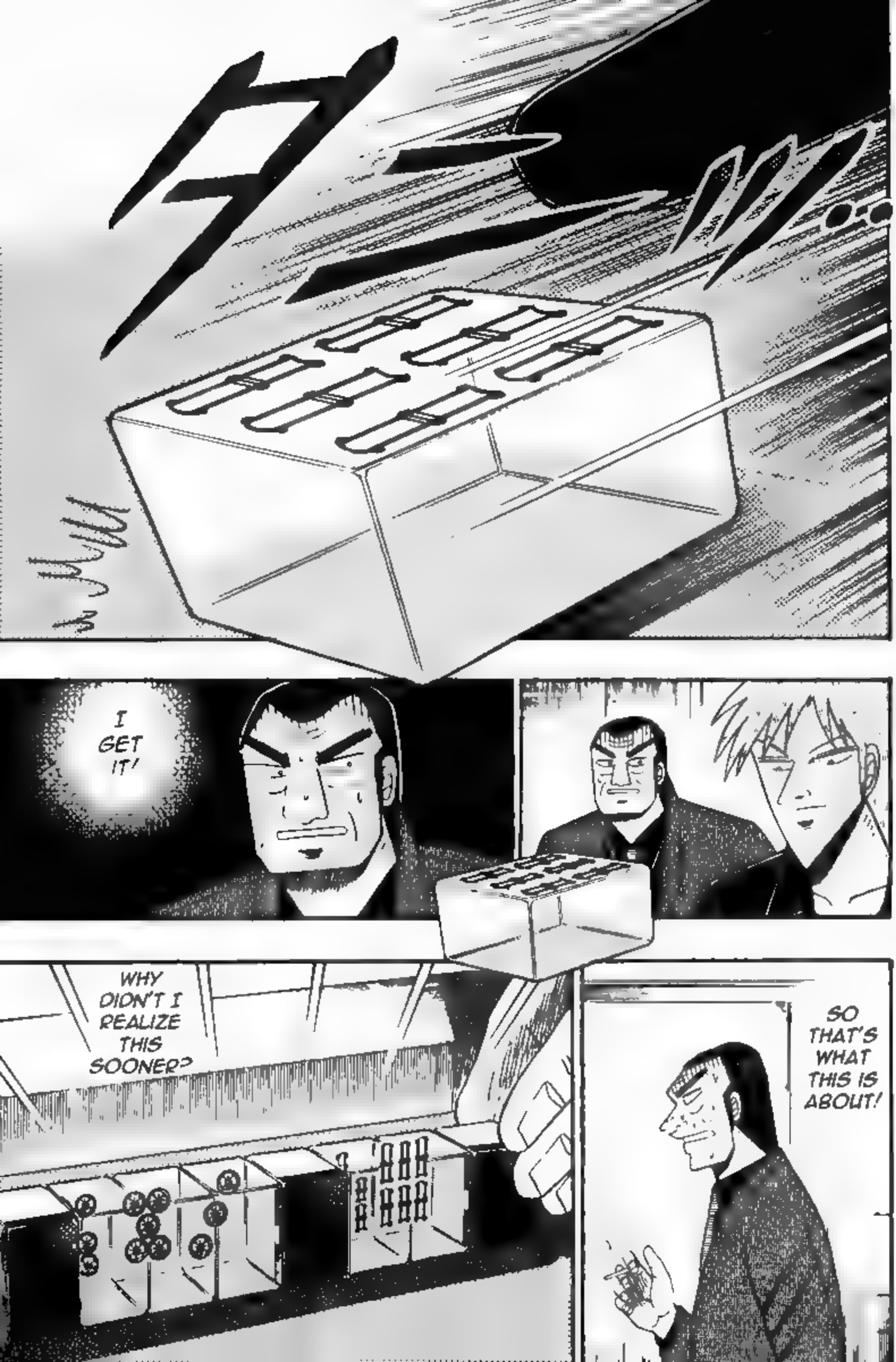
HAS A 4- AND 7-PIN WAIT!
DID AKAGI KNOW THOSE TILES WOULD PASS ?
AND HOW ON EARTH.
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A SECOND POND?
HOW?
チラッ…
"SECOND POND"…?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN .?



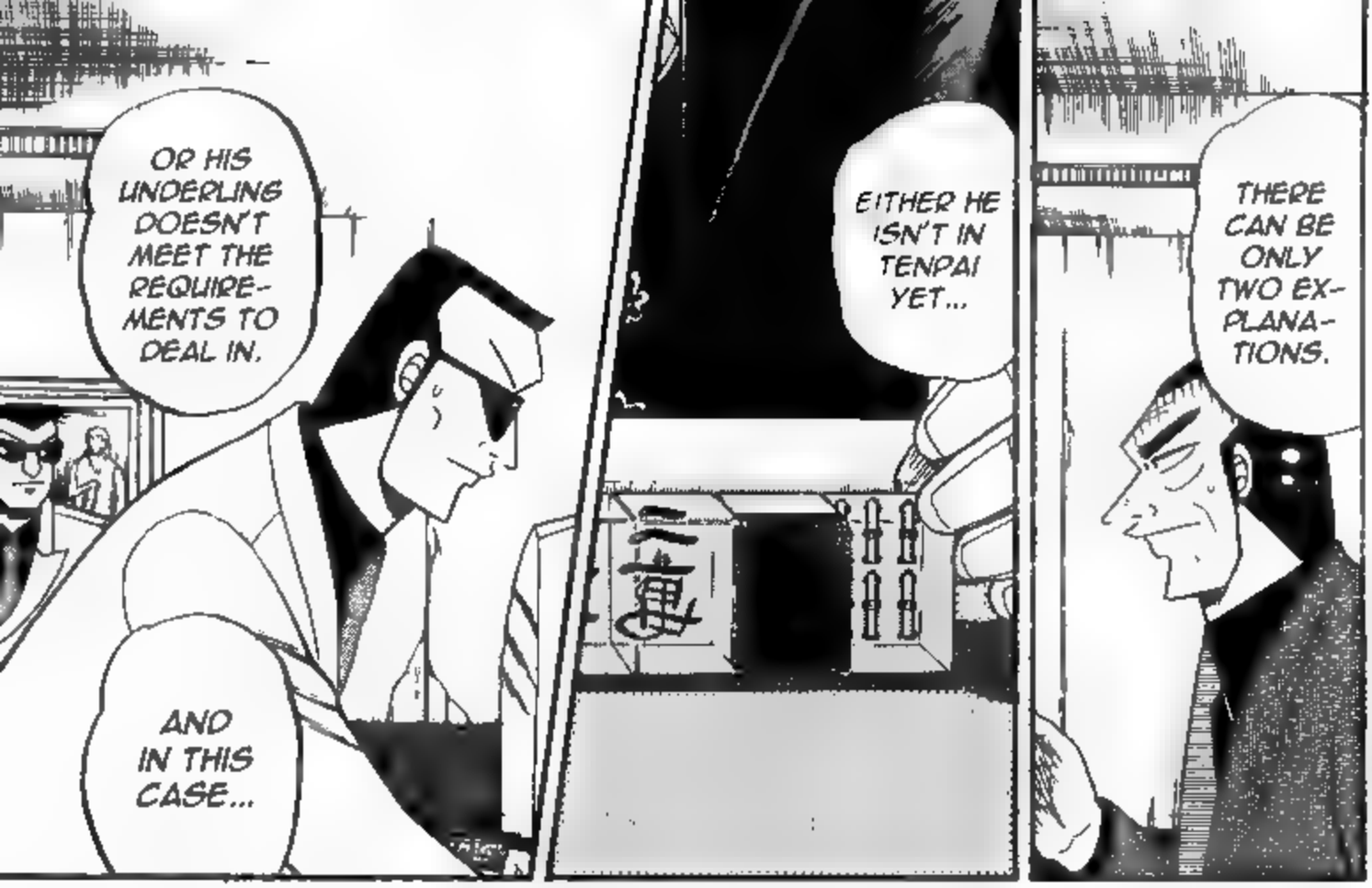


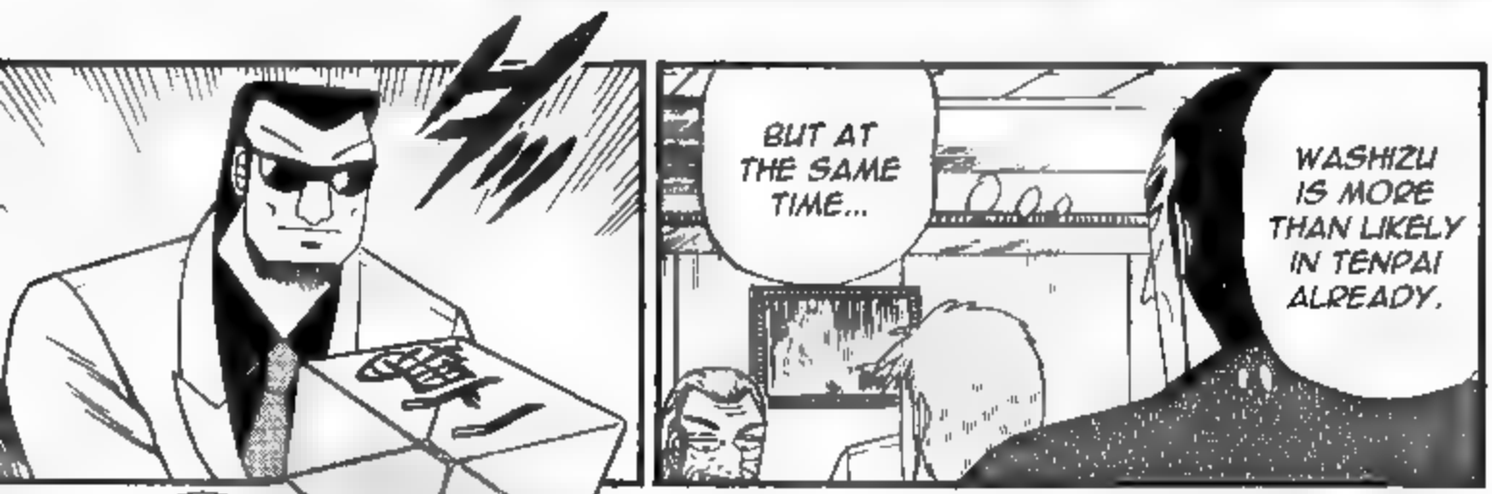
AH...!




I GET IT!
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE THIS SOONER?
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT!

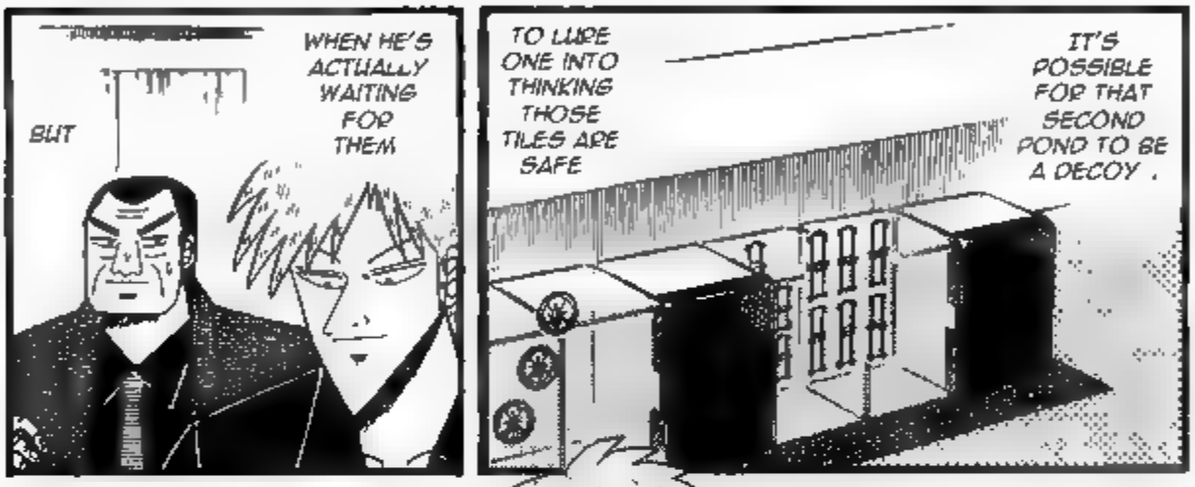
TO CALL RIICHI...
WASHIZU IS PLANNING TO TEAM UP WITH HIS UNDERLING.
THERE-FORE...
AND THEN HAVE HIS PARTNER DEAL IN ON THE NEXT DISCARD FOR IPPATSU.
SO LONG AS THAT'S THE STRATEGY HE'S TAKING...
IF HE HASN'T DECLARED RIICHI YET...
AS LONG AS HE'S DOING THAT...
Le...

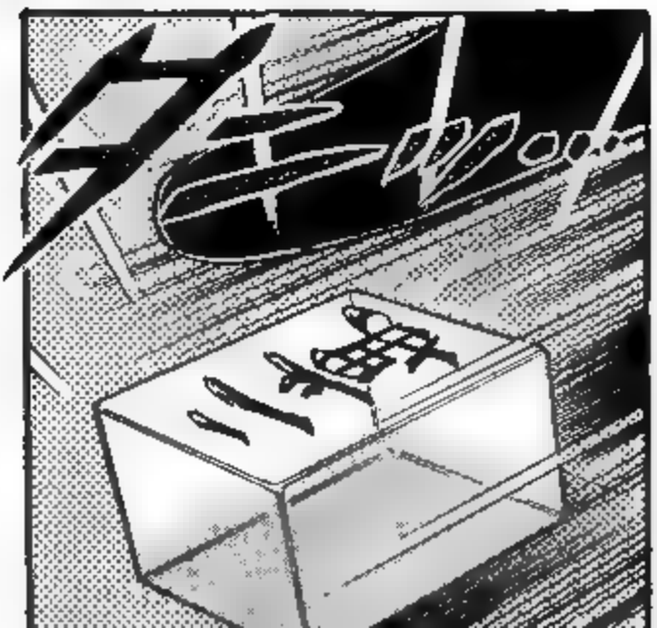

THERE CAN BE ONLY TWO EXPLANATIONS.
EITHER HE ISN'T IN TENPAI YET...
OR HIS UNDERLING DOESN'T MEET THE REQUIREMENTS TO DEAL IN.
AND IN THIS CASE...

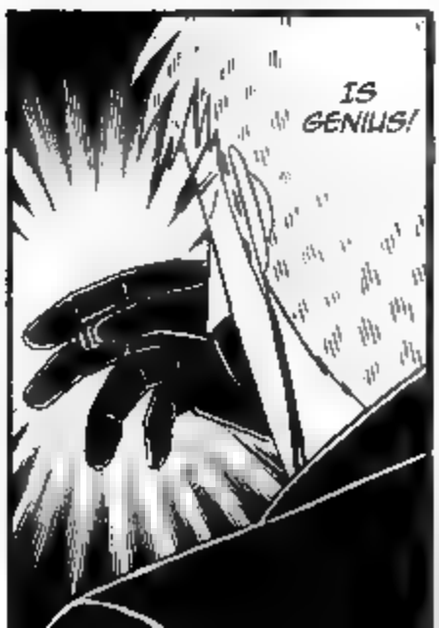

WASHIZU IS MORE THAN LIKELY IN TENPAI ALREADY.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME...

HIS UNDERLING DOESN'T HAVE ANY OF HIS WINNING TILES IN HIS HAND.
SO TO PUT THAT IN REVERSE...
RIGHT NOW, ALL THE TILES IN HIS UNDERLING'S HAND...

ARE SAFE TILES!
AKAGI WAS ABLE TO PLAY THE 7-SOU AND 5-PIN!
BUT RATHER
IS NOT THAT AKAGI WAS ABLE TO DISCOVER THIS SECOND POND
THE SURPRISING THING ABOUT ALL THIS
REALLY
I MIGHT NOT BE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SAYING THIS BUT
SINCE I COMPLETELY MISSED THIS SECOND POND
IT REALLY A SECOND POND A SECOND DISCARD POOL
AND ARMED WITH THE INFORMATION FROM THIS SECOND


BUT
WHEN HE'S ACTUALLY WAITING FOR THEM
TO LURE ONE INTO THINKING THOSE TILES ARE SAFE
IT'S POSSIBLE FOR THAT SECOND POND TO BE A DECOY.





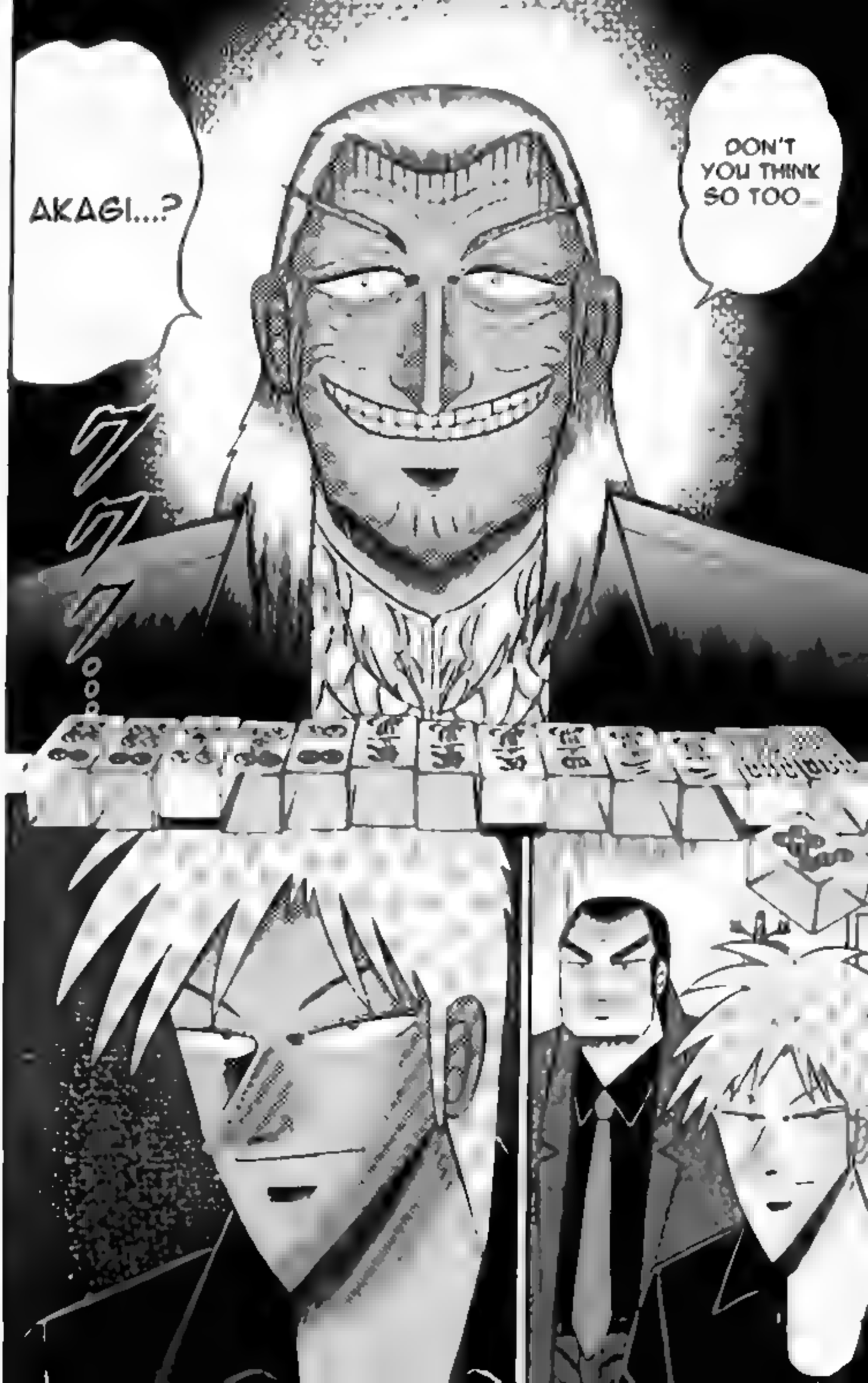
THAT HE WAS ABLE TO BET HIS LIFE ON IT!

AT THE VERY LEAST, HE CAN WIN THIS ROUND!
HE PLAYED THE TILES...
HE CAN WIN!

HE'LL PROBABLY GET IT BEFORE WASHIZU!
HE'LL TSUMO!
THE 5-PIN AND 7-SOU THAT YOU NORMALLY COULDN'T PLAY AND MAINTAINED HIS TENPAI!

Ge-!!...

EVEN WITH A PERFECT.. NO, MORE THAN PERFECT DEFENSIVE GAME...
YOU WILL STILL FALL SHORT.
YOU WILL PLAY YOUR BEST, AND YET STILL DIE.
WHEN YOUR TIME COMES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU FIGHT IT .
TO DIE IN THE END IS WHAT MAHJONG IS ALL ABOUT!
TANYAO, TSUMO, WITH 2 DORA...
FOR MAN-GAN.
THAT'S MAHJONG FOR YOU
NNGH...!
KHEH-HEH-HEH...


AKAGI...?
DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO...
ZZZ...

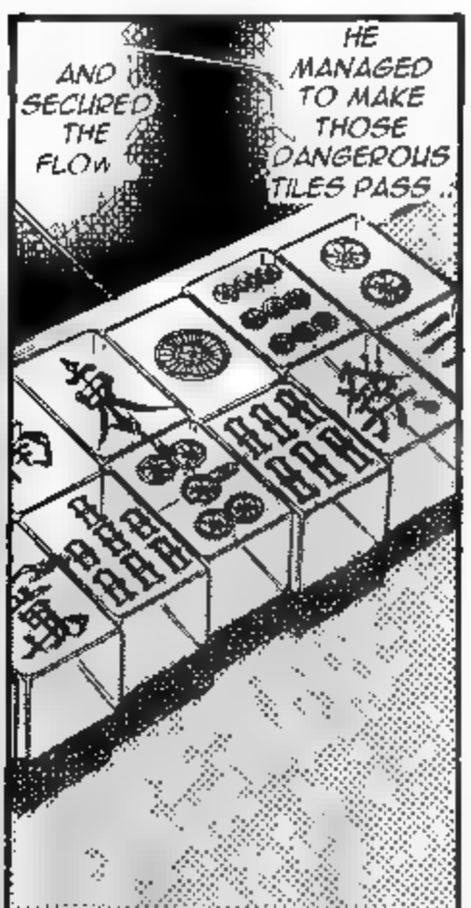
ざわ・・・
KHEH-HEH-HEH...

HOW COULD THIS HAP-PEN?!

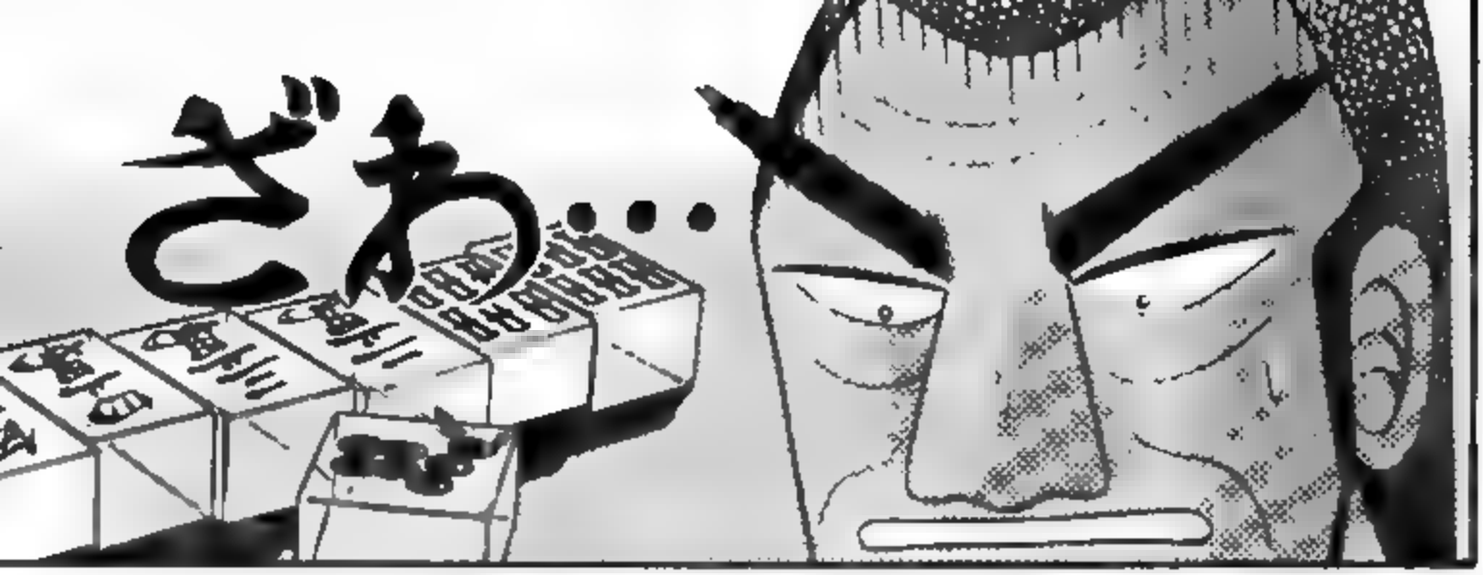
ざわ・・
ざわ・・・

HE GOT A TSUMO THAT EASILY!

IT'S THE OPPOSITE!
HE PULLED THROUGH.. OR SO I THOUGHT, BUT

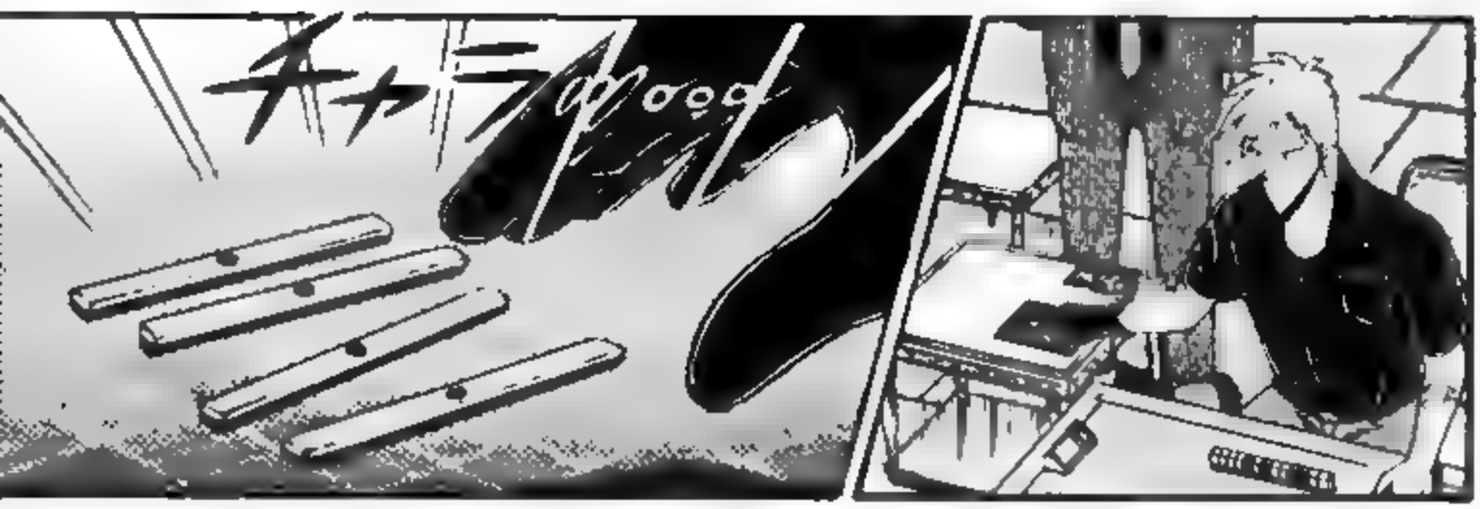

AND SECURED THE FLOW
HE MANAGED TO MAKE THOSE DANGEROUS TILES PASS ..

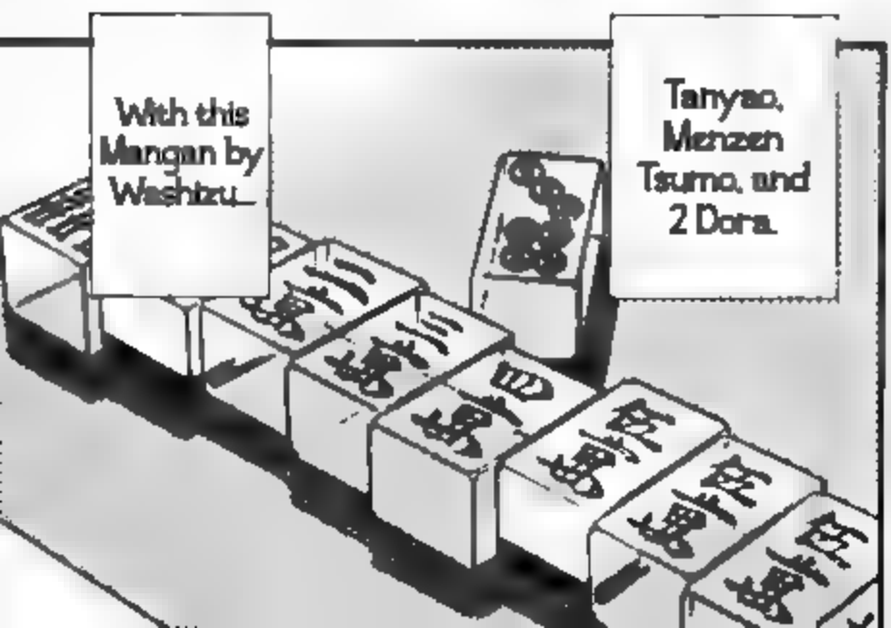
DRAWING BLOOD
CHAPTER 74:
第74話採血
THAT EASILY!!


ざあ…

CAN DEFEND AGAINST IT!
NOT EVEN AKAGI

ONCE HE DRAWS IT, IT'S ALL OVER!
SMARTS AND KNOWL-EDGE CAN'T


ドラ7


With this Mangan by Washizu...
Tanyao, Menzen Tsumo, and 2 Dora.

KNEH-HEH-HEH...

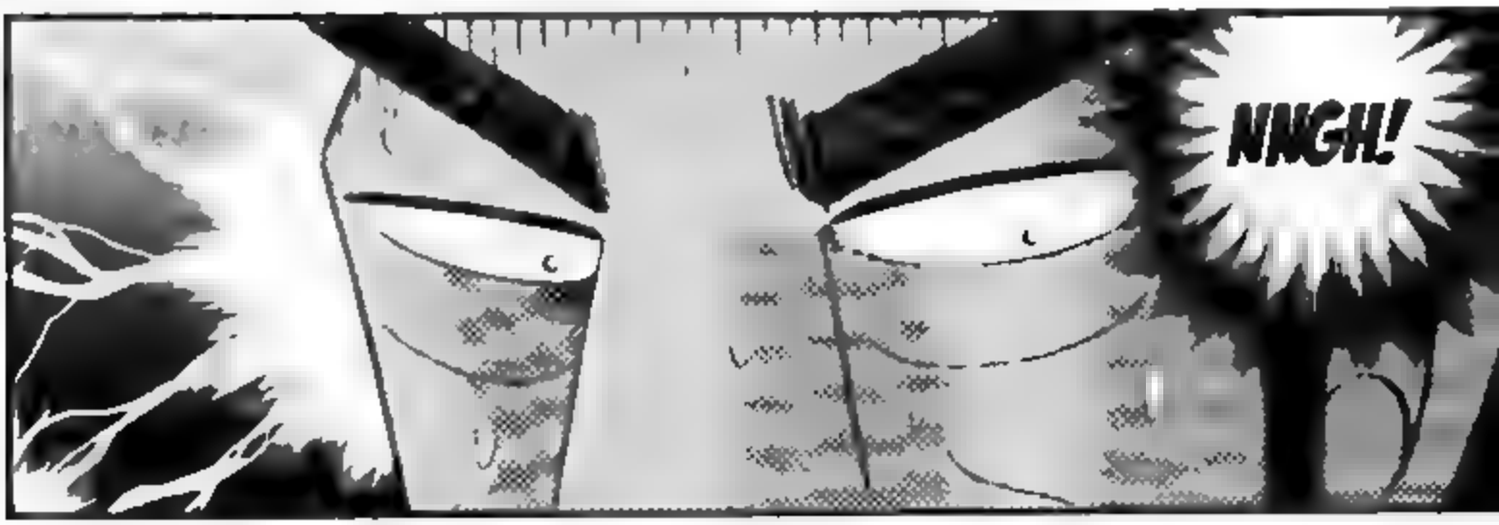
Washizu's points are increased by 8000.
And on the other hand...
His points drop to 26000...
Akagi loses 4000 points.

And from there...
DO IT.
He rises to 40,000 for a difference of 14000 points!

URGH...
YES S.R.
There is the bonus payment!

THE DRAWING OF BLOOD!
コトッ!!!

キュウ!
The drawing of blood that is now beginning
It is the heretical rule unique to Washizu Mahjong...


NNGH!

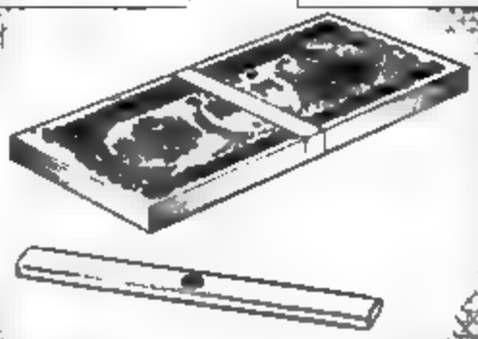
.....
The rules state that either money or blood must be taken appropriately according to the stakes.
Naturally for direct hits, but even with a Tsumo...
If any points are exchanged directly between Akagi and Washizu...

Translates to 100 ccs he must have drawn.

And for Akagi, each 1000 points from him...

1 Million Yen for each 1000 points taken from him.

For Washizu, those stakes are...



This is the first time he has had his blood drawn thus far.

Because Akagi gave Washizu 4000 points just now...

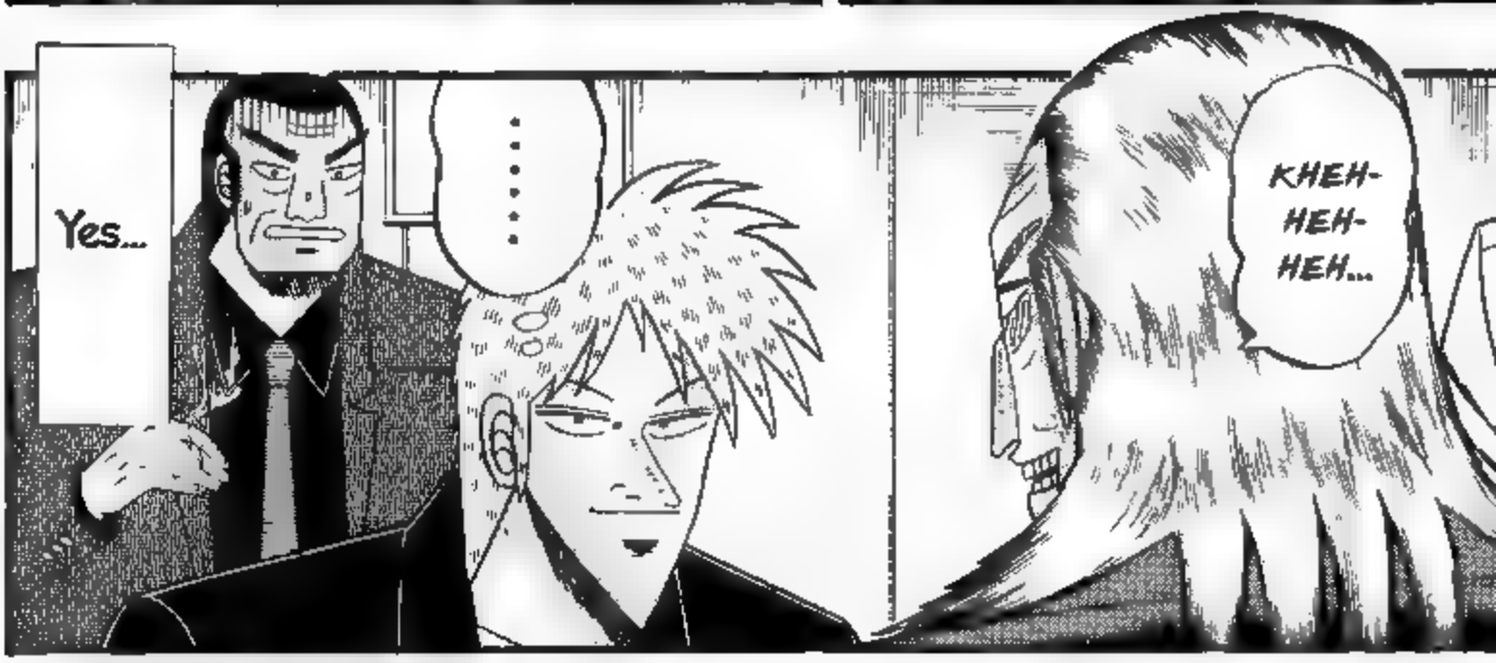
He must have 400 ccs of blood taken.

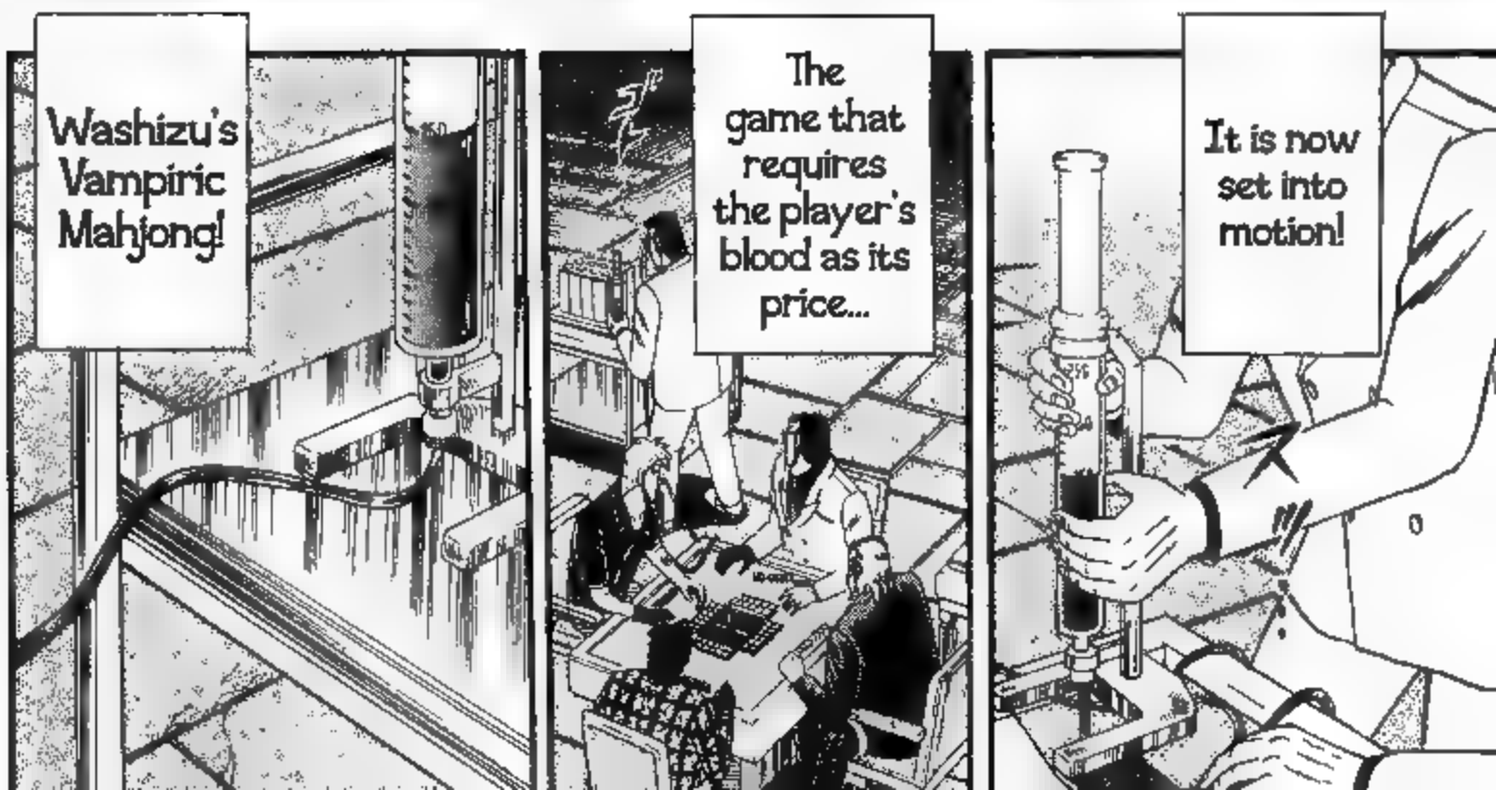
Each of the glass vials can hold 250 ccs, so that amount fills up one container...

And 150 ccs of another.

KHEH-HEH-HEH...

THIS IS WHERE THE TRUE GAME BEGINS!
IT'S FINALLY BEGUN!
AT LAST...


Yes...
.....
KHEH-HEH-HEH...

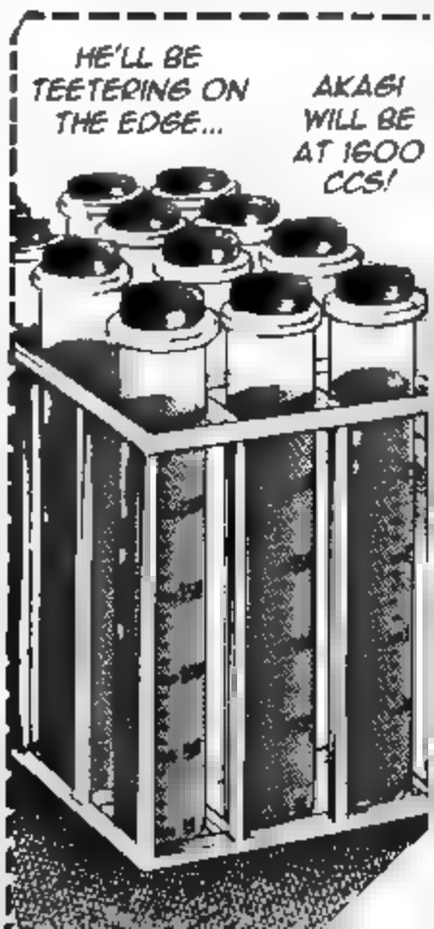

Washizu's Vampiric Mahjong!
The game that requires the player's blood as its price...
It is now set into motion!

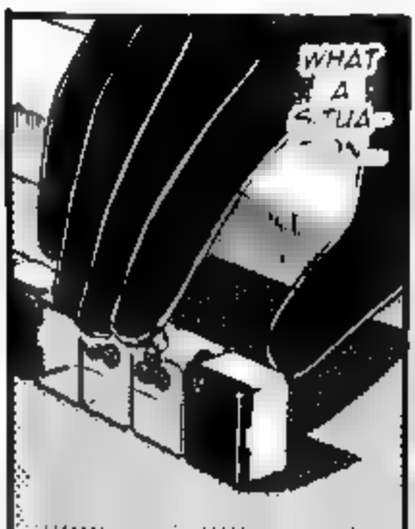
That reality is now set into motion!
ゴト…
ゴト…
ゴト…

IF HE GETS JUST 3 MORE TSUMOS LIKE THAT...
IT'S ABOUT AS TOUGH AS IT CAN GET

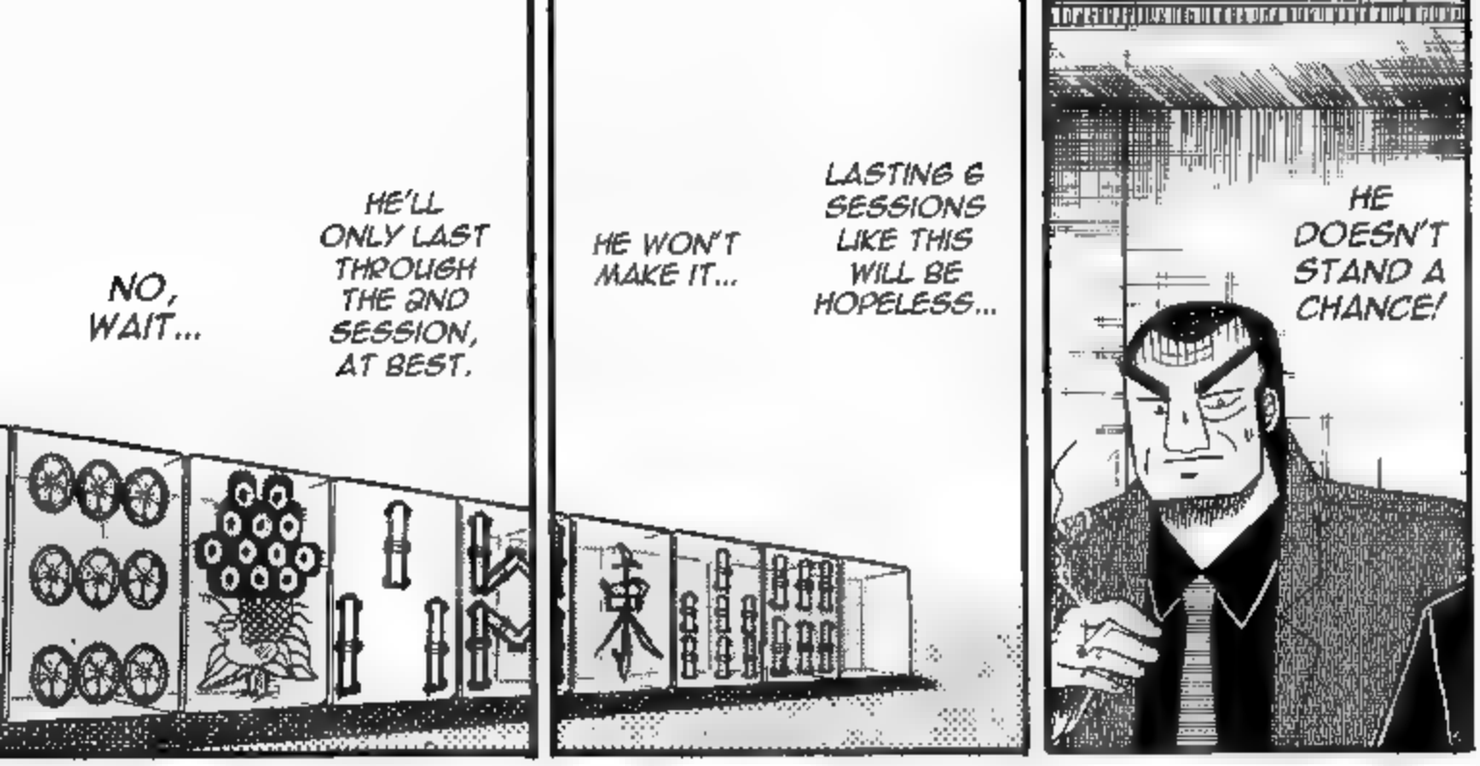
THIS IS TOO MUCH

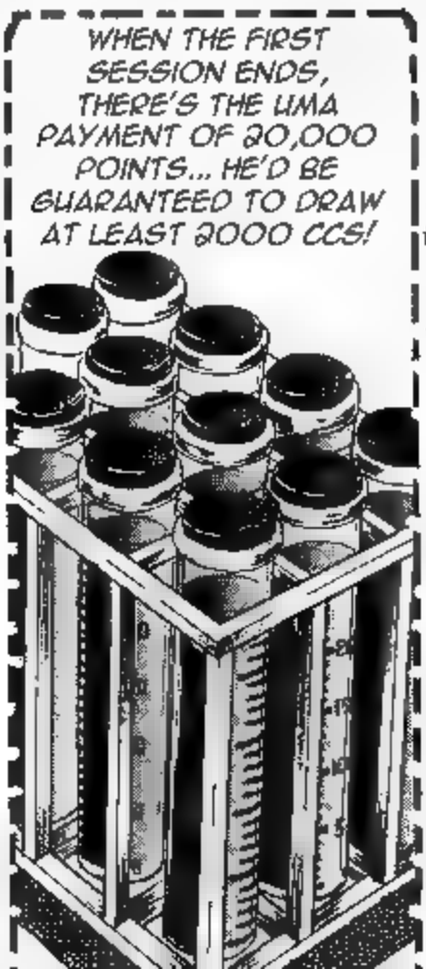
THAT'S THE ABSOLUTE LETHAL LIMIT... HE'LL DIE!
AND ON THE FIFTH ONE, IT'LL BE 2000.


HE'LL BE TEETERING ON THE EDGE...
AKAGI WILL BE AT 1600 CCS!


WHAT A

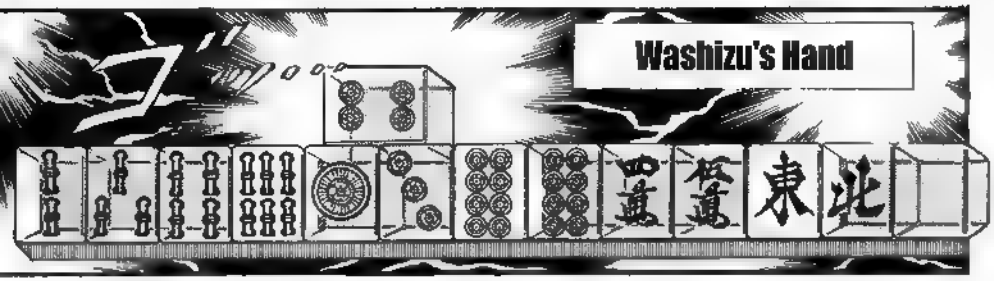
THERE'S NO WAY TO AVOID A TSUMO
EVEN IF HE AVOIDS DEALING IN

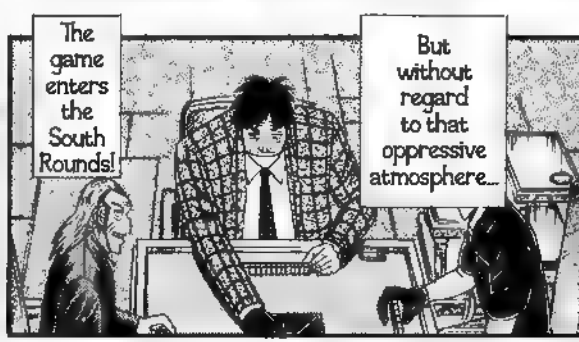

NO, WAIT...
HE'LL ONLY LAST THROUGH THE 2ND SESSION, AT BEST.
HE WON'T MAKE IT...
LASTING 6 SESSIONS LIKE THIS WILL BE HOPELESS...
HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE!



T/N Uma is a bonus paid based on rank from the losers to the winners

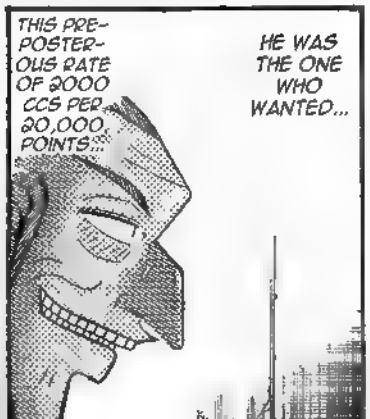
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
Dark clouds gather around the table!


Washizu's Hand


The game enters the South Rounds!
But without regard to that oppressive atmosphere...

YOU WON'T EVEN MAKE IT PAST A SINGLE HANCHAN!
YOU GAR-BAGE!

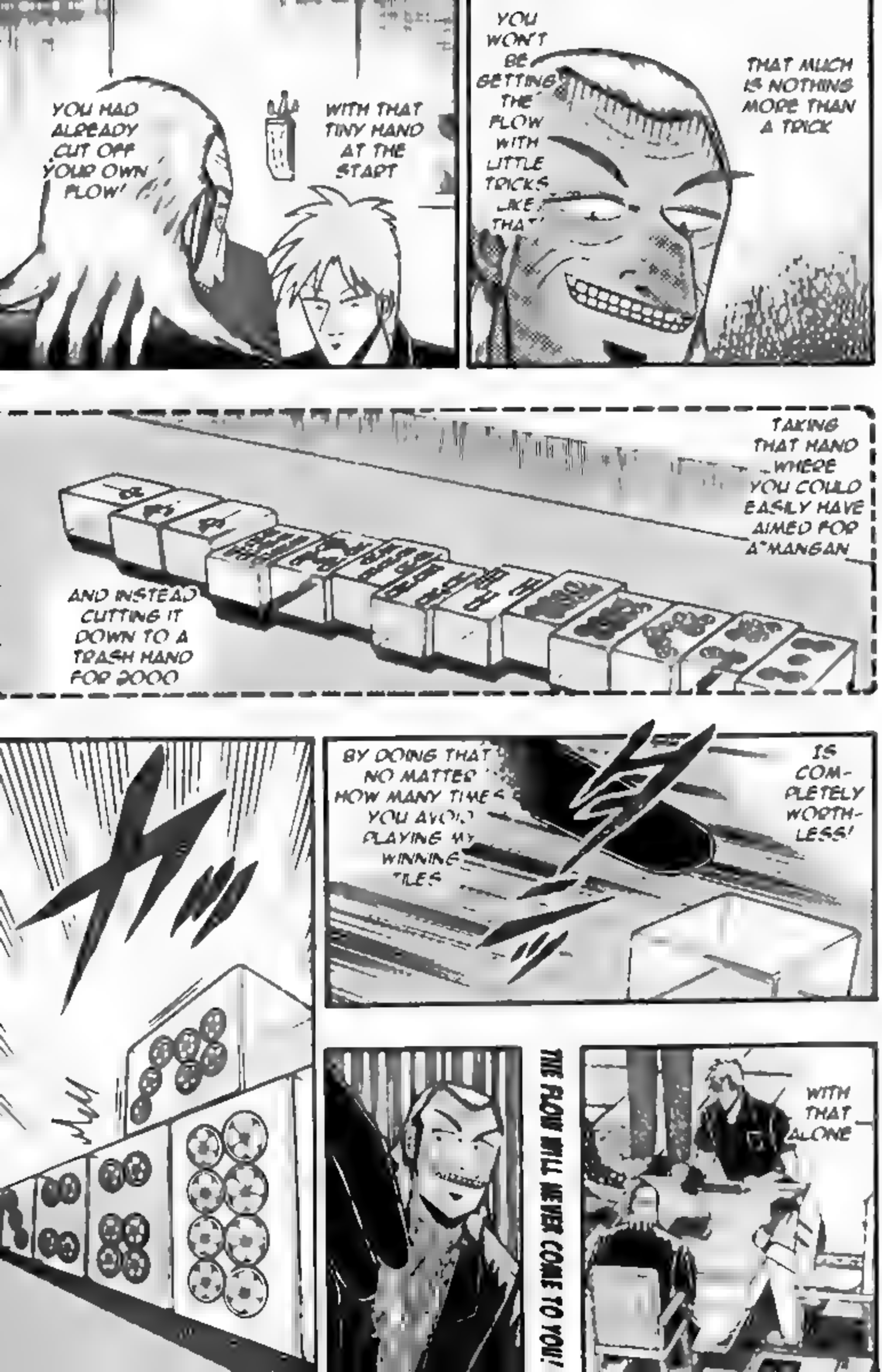
BUT JUST LOOK AT HIM NOW!


THIS PRE-POSTER-OUS RATE OF 2000 CCS PER 20,000 POINTS...
HE WAS THE ONE WHO WANTED...

WHAT A LAUGHING-STOCK!

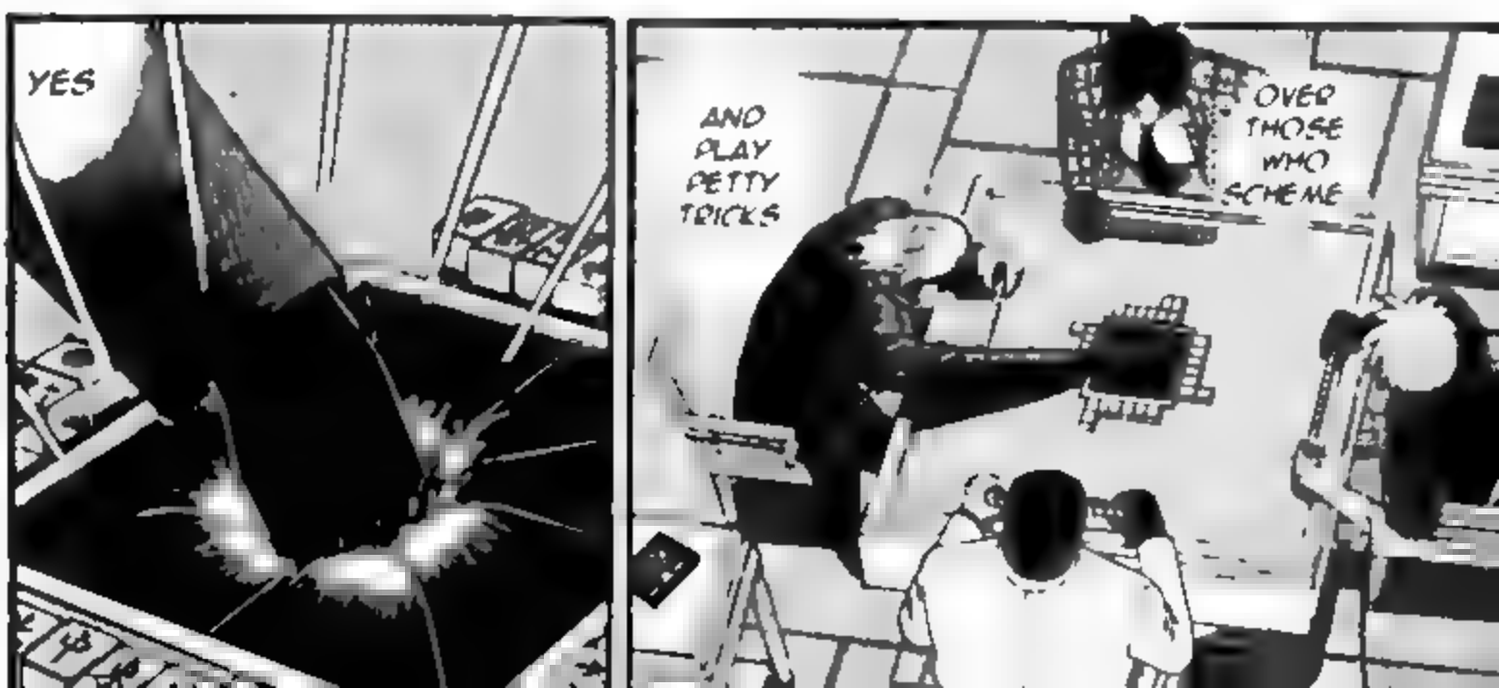
KHEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH...

WHICH MEANS HE'LL DIE!
WON'T BE ABLE TO TOPPLE MY LEAD?
DIE!!
THIS MAN
MOST LIKELY, THIS HAN-CHAN
WELL.
KHEH-HEH-HEH...
BUT..
IS CER-TAINLY NO SMALL FEAT
AND SUC-CESS-FULLY PLAY AROUND IT
BEING ABLE TO RECOG-NIZE THE SECOND POND.
I SUPPOSE HE DID SHOW A BIT OF TALENT

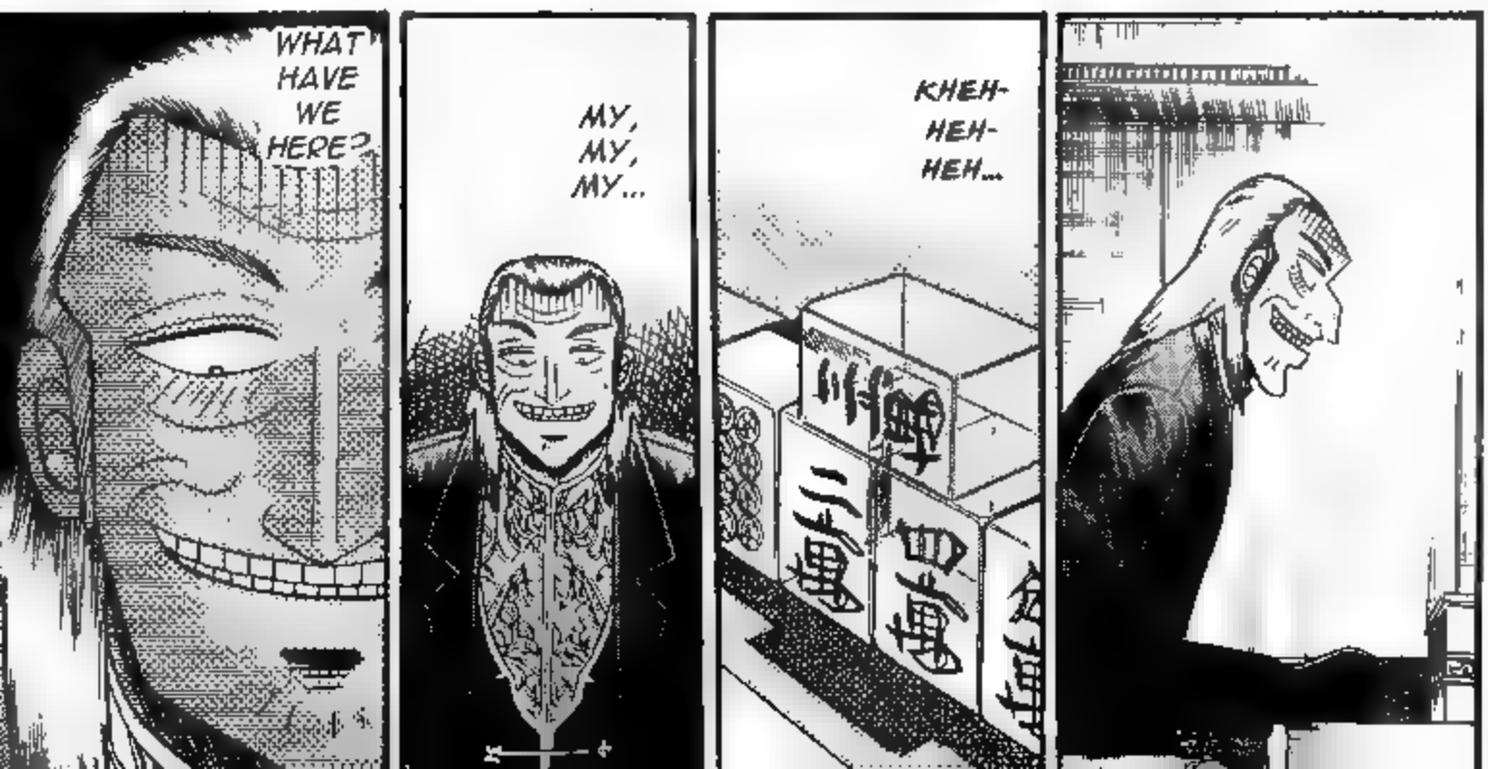

YOU HAD ALREADY CUT OFF YOUR OWN FLOW!
WITH THAT TINY HAND AT THE START
YOU WON'T BE GETTING THE FLOW WITH LITTLE TRICKS LIKE THAT!
THAT MUCH IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TRICK
TAKING THAT HAND ...WHERE YOU COULD EASILY HAVE AIMED FOR A "MANGAN
AND INSTEAD CUTTING IT DOWN TO A TRASH HAND FOR 2000
BY DOING THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU AVOID PLAYING MY WINNING TILES
IS COMPLETELY WORTHLESS!
THE FLOW WILL NEVER COME TO YOU!
WITH THAT ALONE

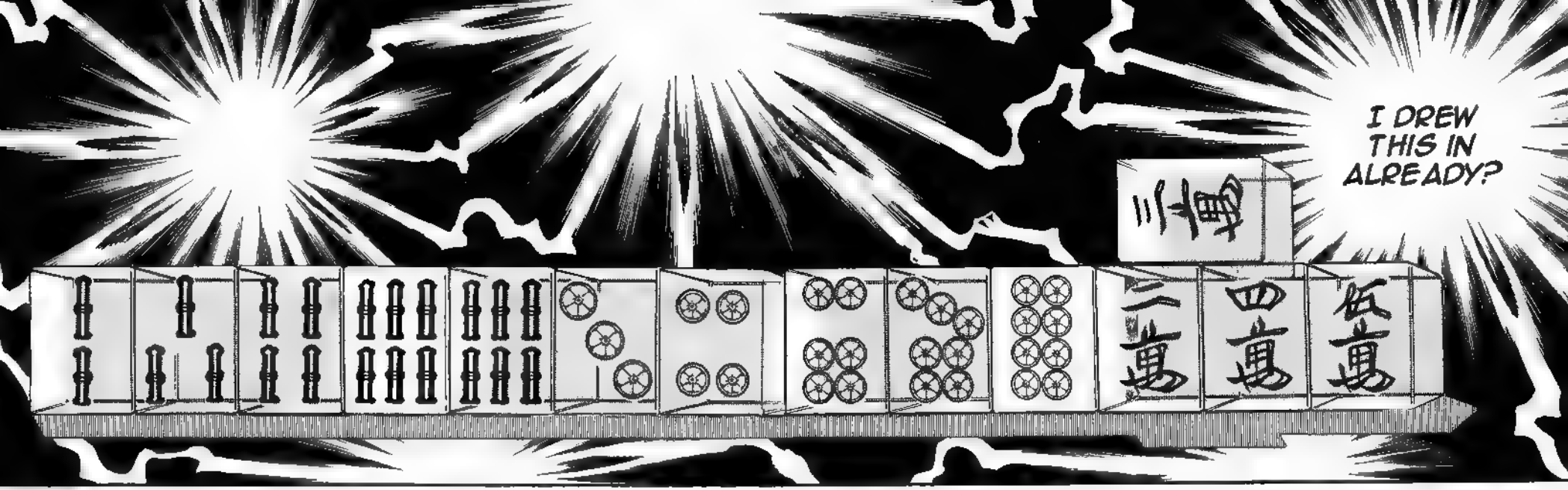
THAT IS ONLY NATU-RAL!
I WILL BE THE FIRST ONE TO TSUMO!

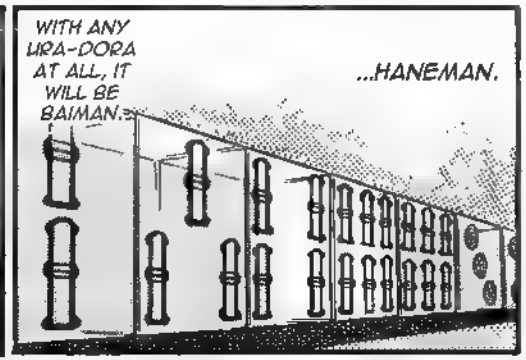
PREFERS THOSE WHO REMAIN CALM AND PLAY STRAIGHT-FORWARD
AND THE DEMON KING THAT LIVES IN THAT DARK-NESS
THERE IS A DARKNESS OF MAH JONG
FU...


YES
AND PLAY PETTY TRICKS
OVER THOSE WHO SCHEME

HE GREATLY PREFERS...
IN OTHER WOR-DS...
MY STYLE OF MAHJONG!


WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
MY, MY, MY...
KHEH-HEH-HEH...

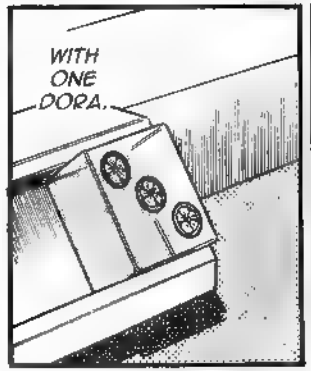

I DREW THIS IN ALREADY?

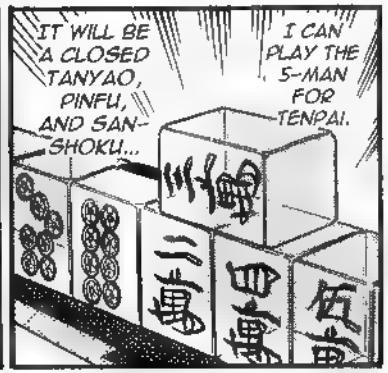

WITH ANY URA-DORA AT ALL, IT WILL BE BAIMAN.
...HANEMAN.

THAT'S 14,000 POINTS...
AFTER THIS, THE POINT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AKAGI AND MYSELF...

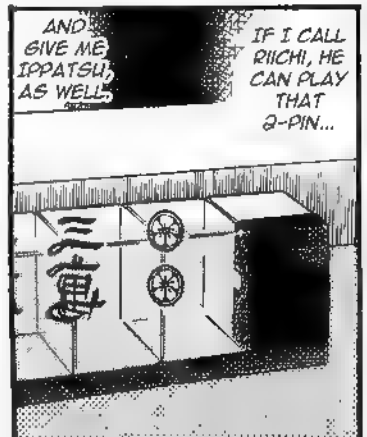
WILL ALL BUT WIN THE GAME, RIGHT HERE!
THIS HAND...

WORTH-LESS!

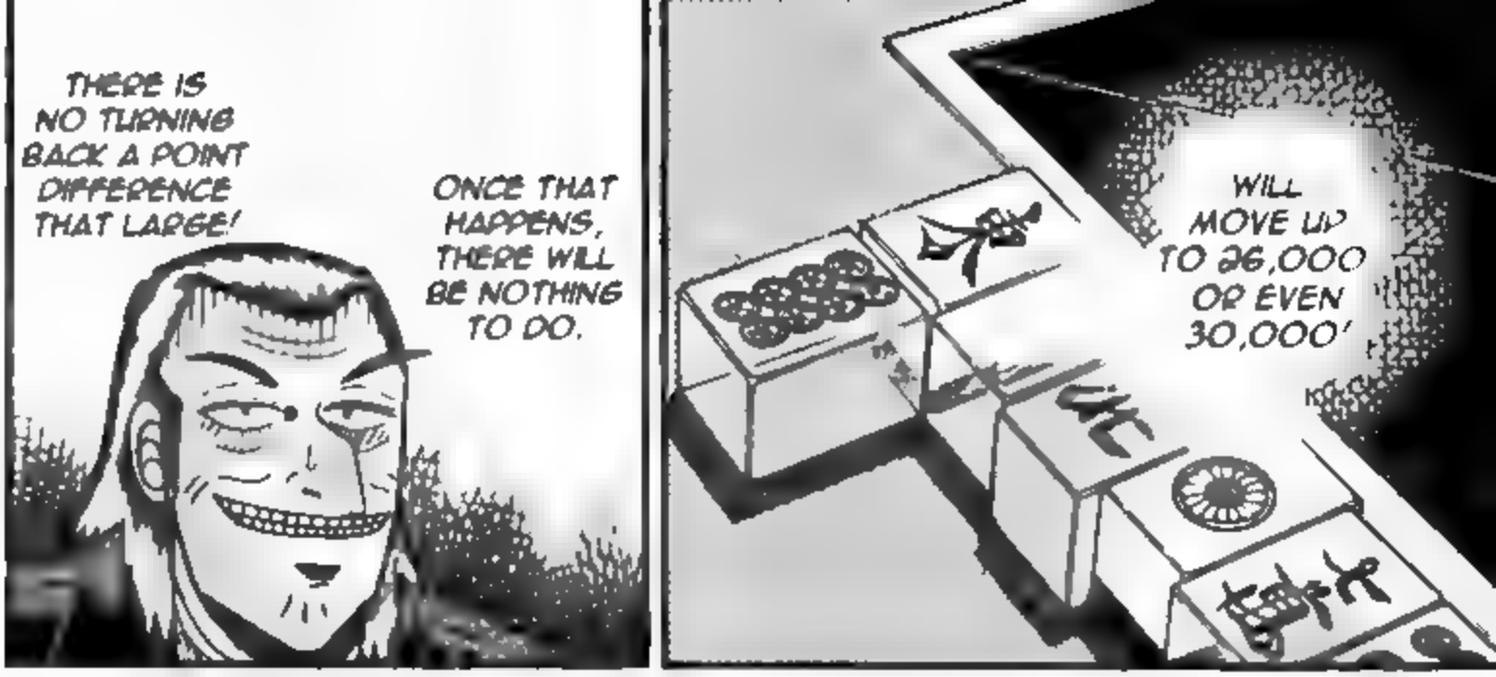

WITH ONE DORA...

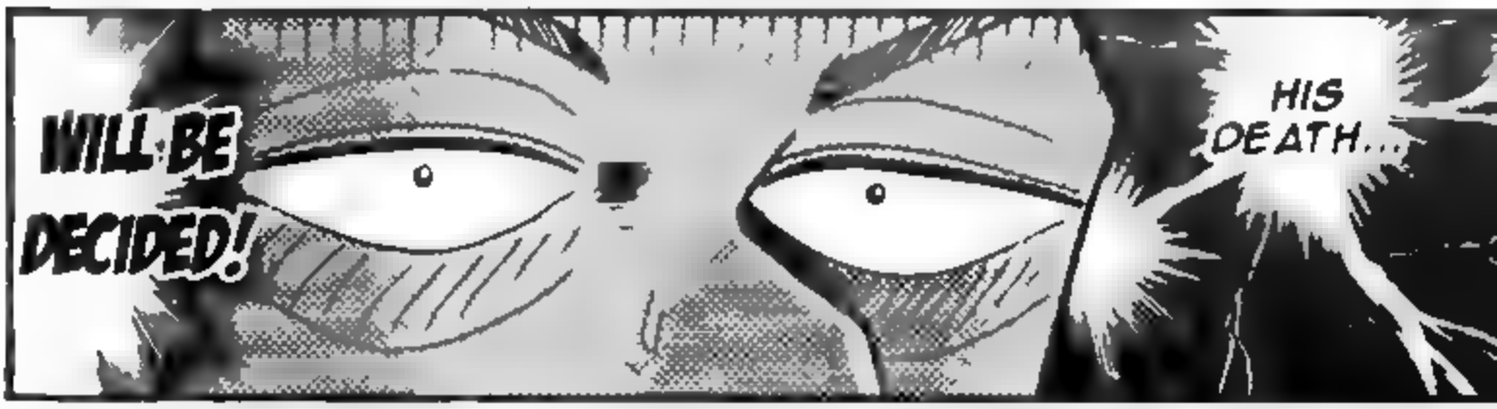

IT WILL BE A CLOSED TANYAO, PINFU, AND SAN-SHOKU...
I CAN PLAY THE 5-MAN FOR TENPAI.

THIS ISN'T ANY FUN!


AND GIVE ME IPPATSU, AS WELL...
IF I CALL RIICHI, HE CAN PLAY THAT 2-PIN...

PLUS, IT'S A SHAPE WHERE THE MAN TO MY RIGHT CAN DEAL INTO MY HAND AT ONCE.

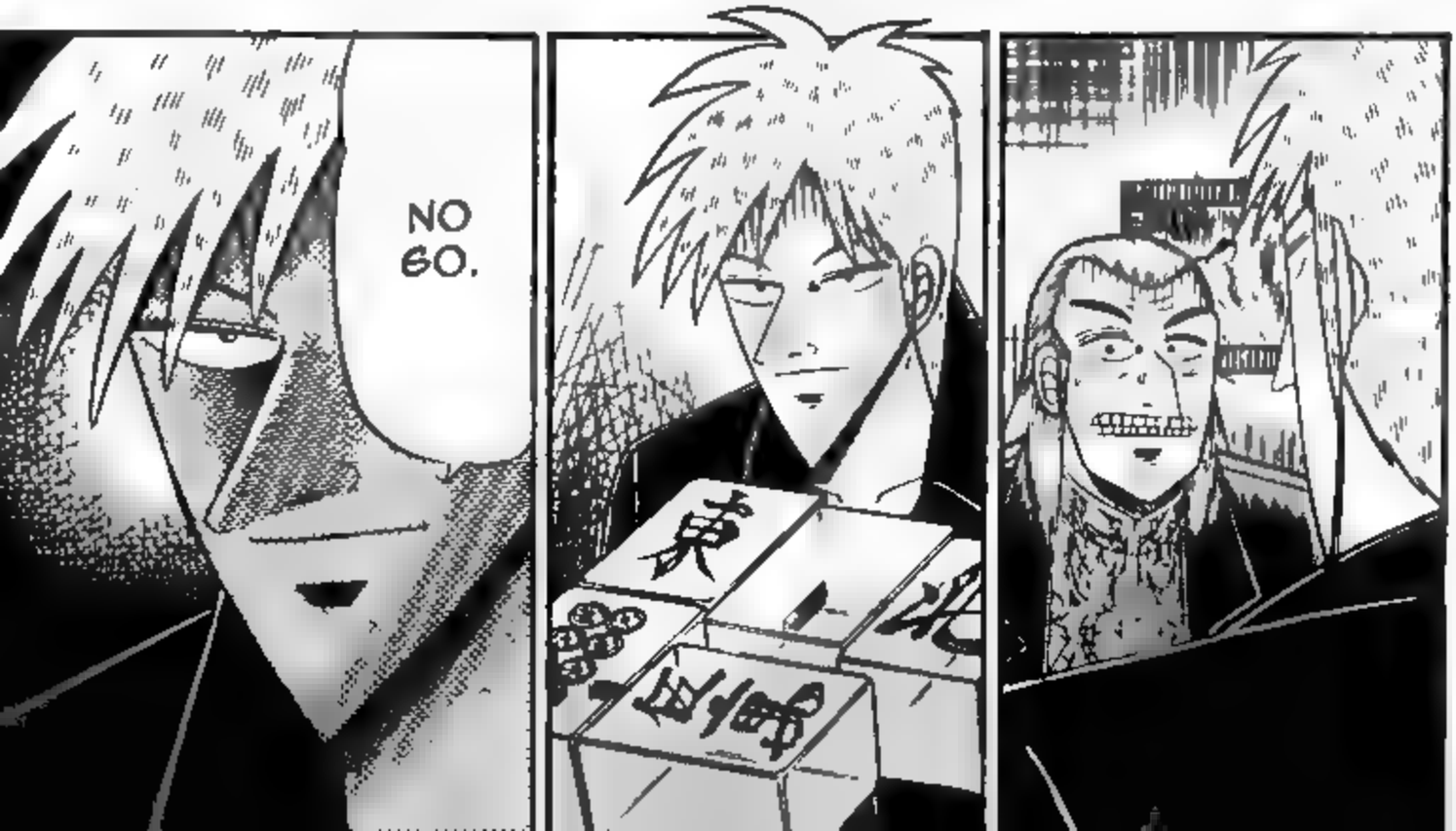

THERE IS NO TURNING BACK A POINT DIFFERENCE THAT LARGE!
ONCE THAT HAPPENS, THERE WILL BE NOTHING TO DO.
WILL MOVE UP TO 26,000 OR EVEN 30,000!

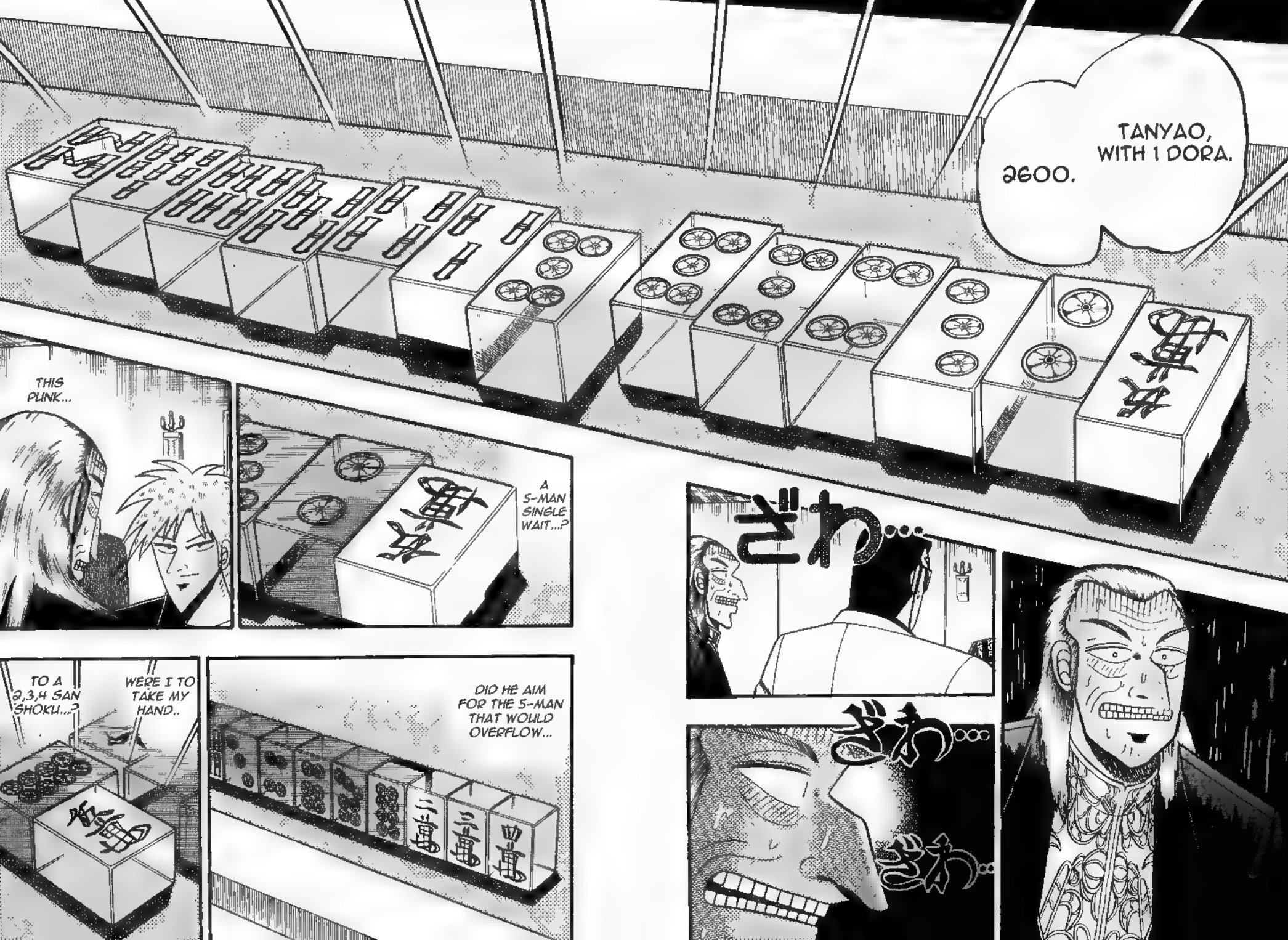

WILL BE DECIDED!
HIS DEATH...

IT'S ALREADY OVER?
THIS WAS NO FUN.
HEH...

RII-...
WITH SOME HOOLIGAN!
TO A GAME
THIS IS ALL THERE WAS...

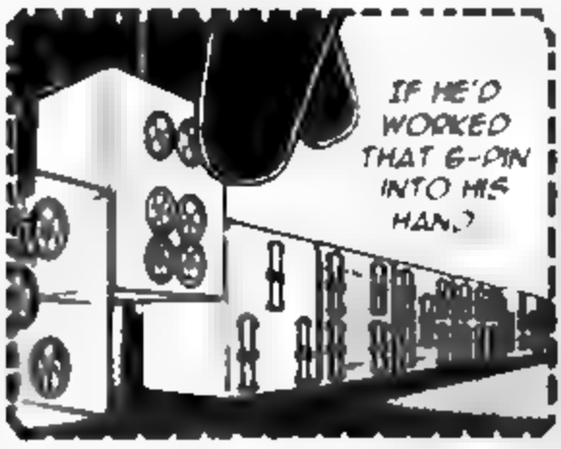
バラ…

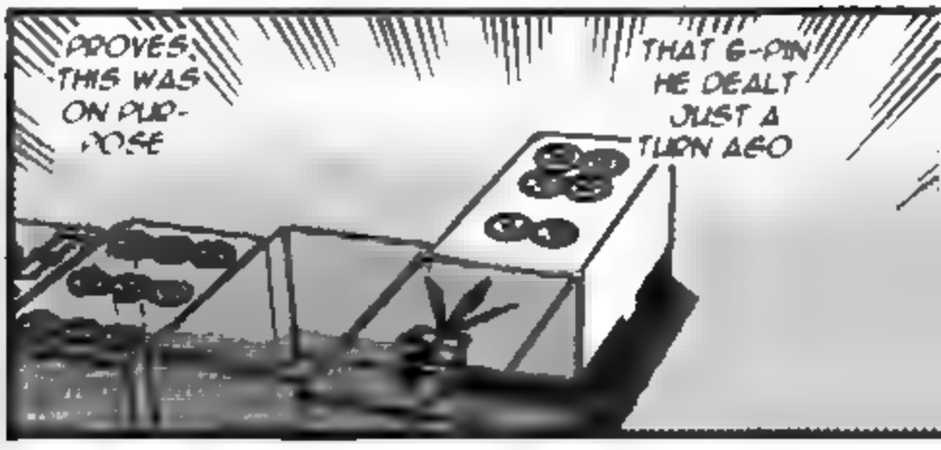

NO
GO.

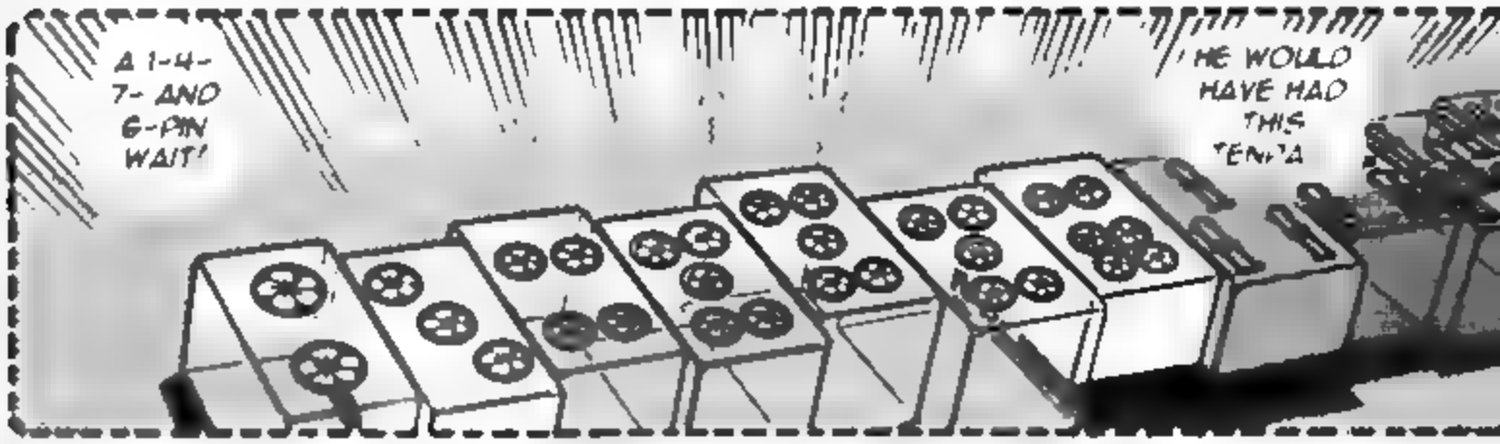

TANYAO, WITH 1 DORA.
2600.
THIS PUNK...
A 5-MAN SINGLE WAIT...?
ざわ...
TO A 2,3,4 SAN SHOKU...?
WERE I TO TAKE MY HAND..
DID HE AIM FOR THE 5-MAN THAT WOULD OVERFLOW...
ざわ...
ざわ...

THIS WAS INTEN-TIONAL!

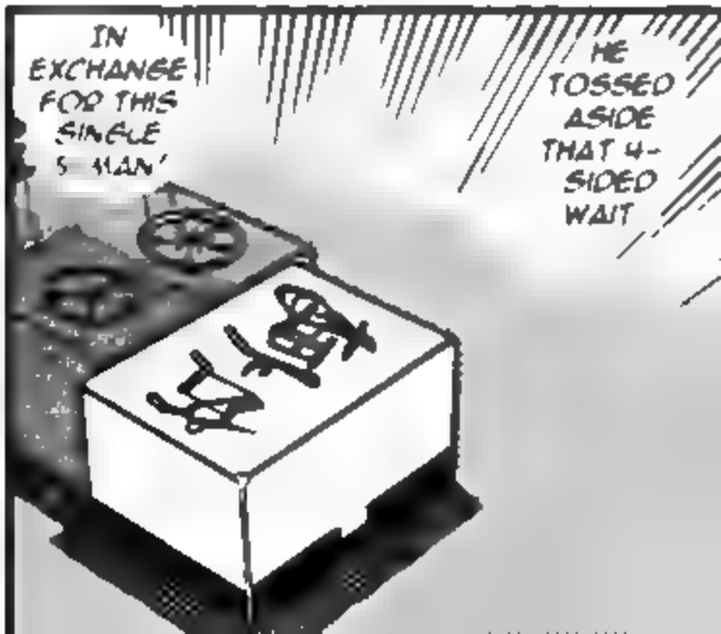
IT'S NOT A COINCI DENCE

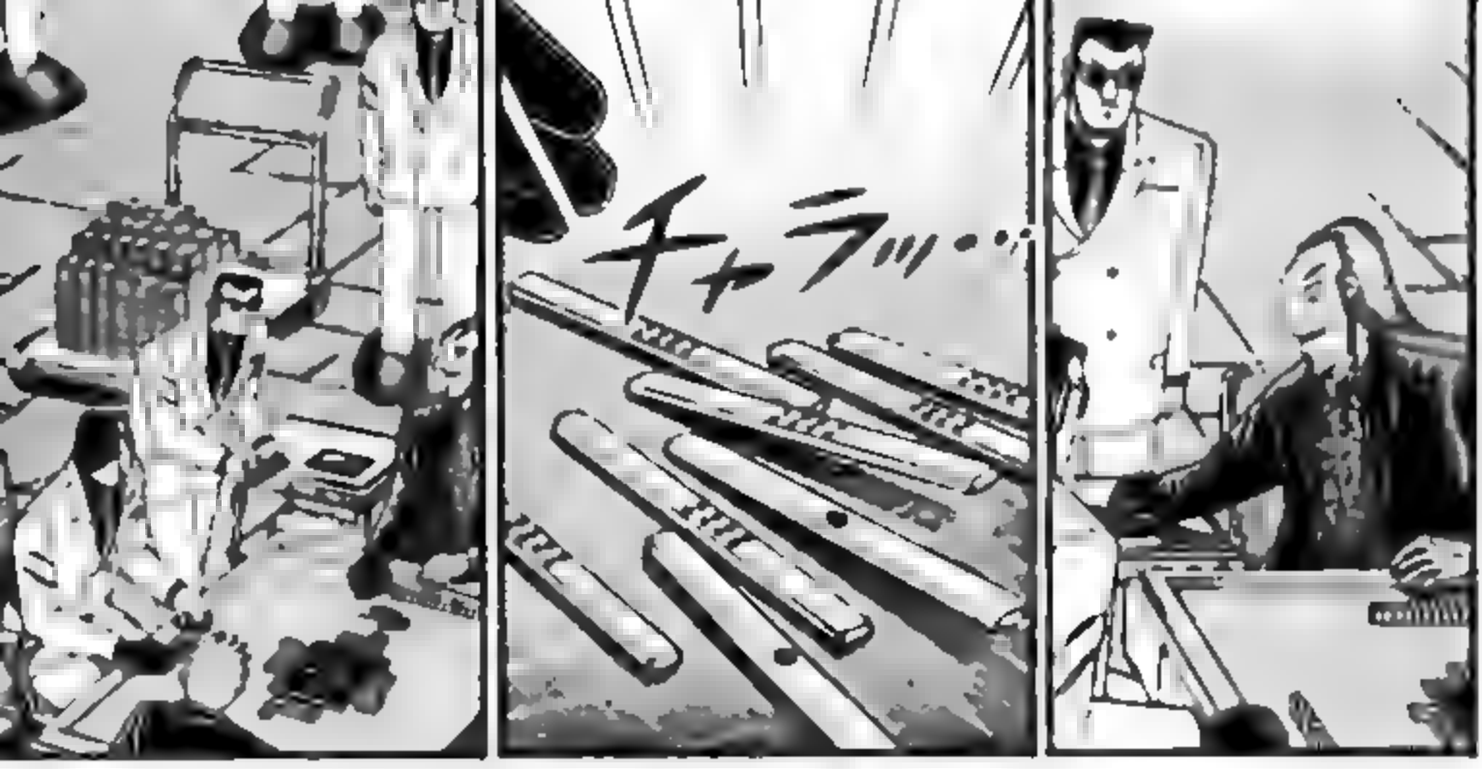

IF HE'D WORKED THAT 6-PIN INTO HIS HAN.

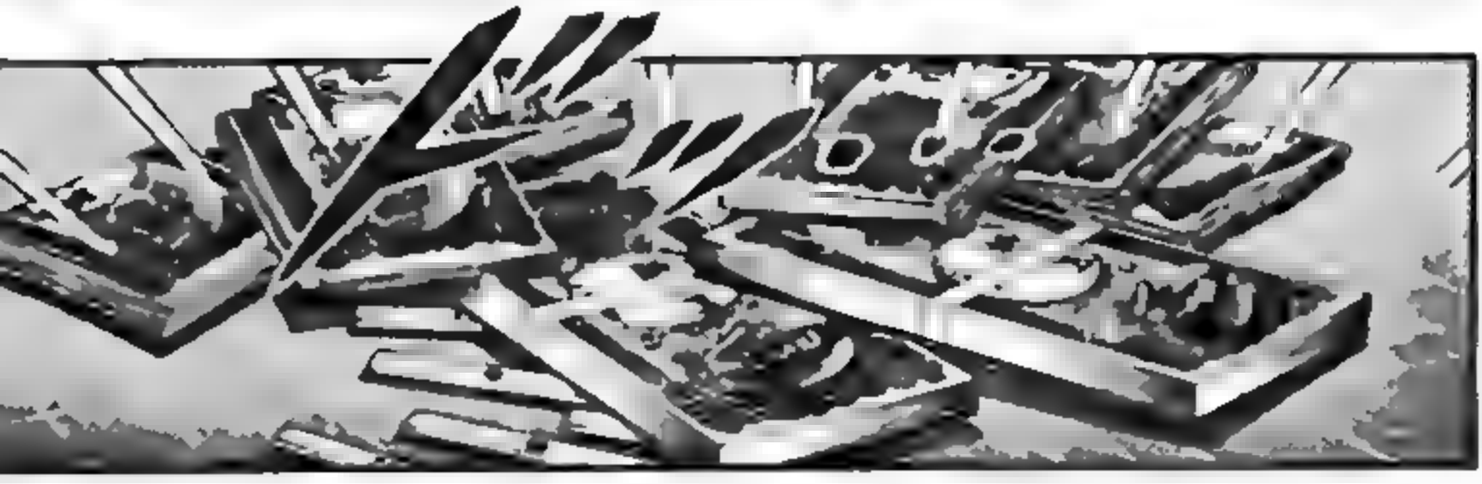

PROVES THIS WAS ON PUR-POSE
THAT 6-PIN HE DEALT JUST A TURN AGO


A 1-4-7- AND 6-PIN WAIT!
HE WOULD HAVE HAD THIS TENPA

KUKU-KUKU-KUKU...


IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS SINGLE S MAN'
HE TOSSED ASIDE THAT 4-SIDED WAIT


チャラ!!!

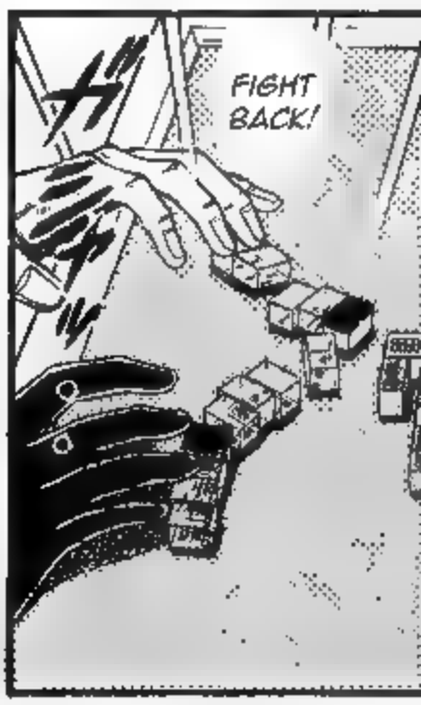


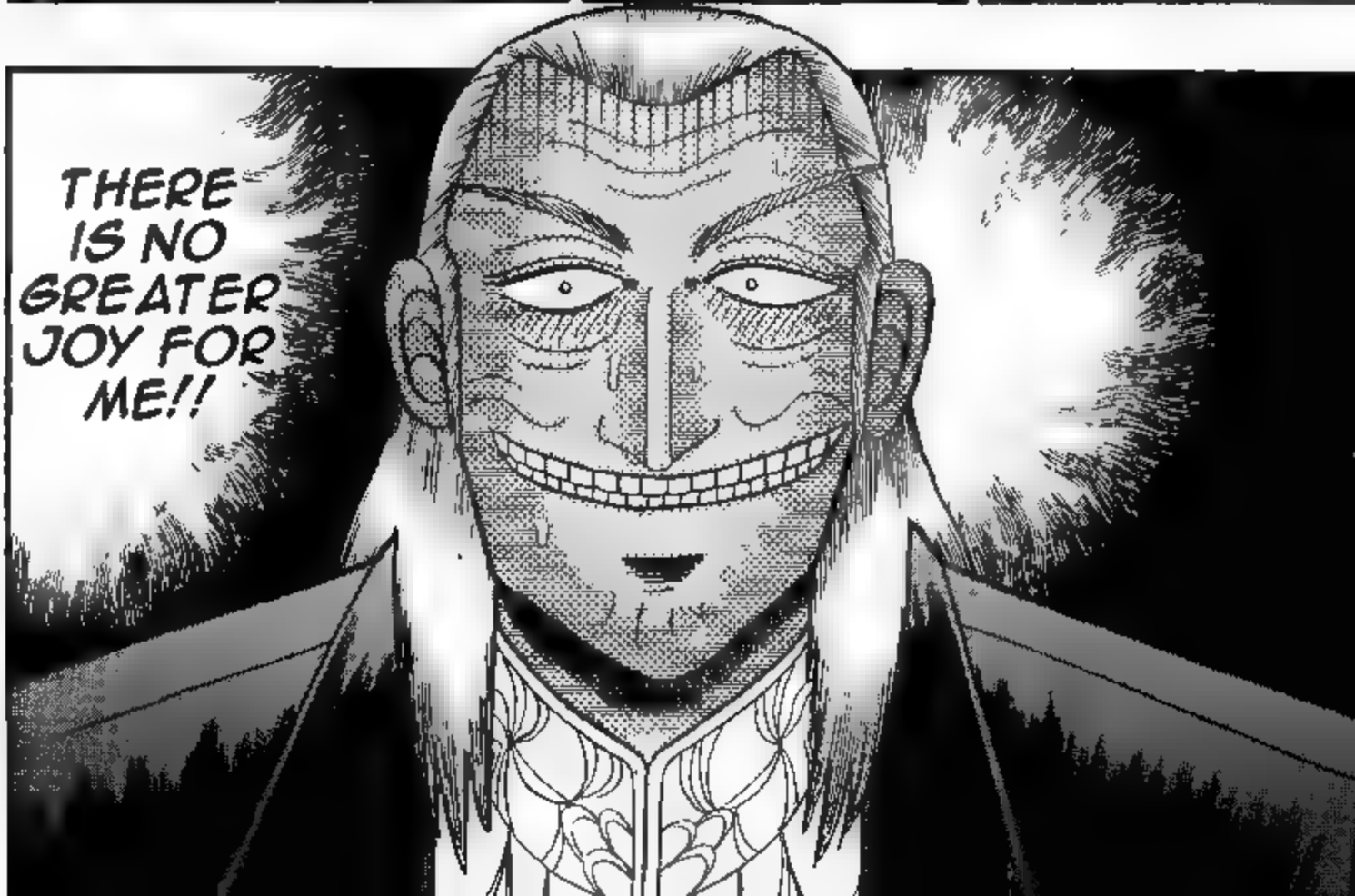
KHEH-HEH...
YEAH
HOW IN-TEREST-ING!

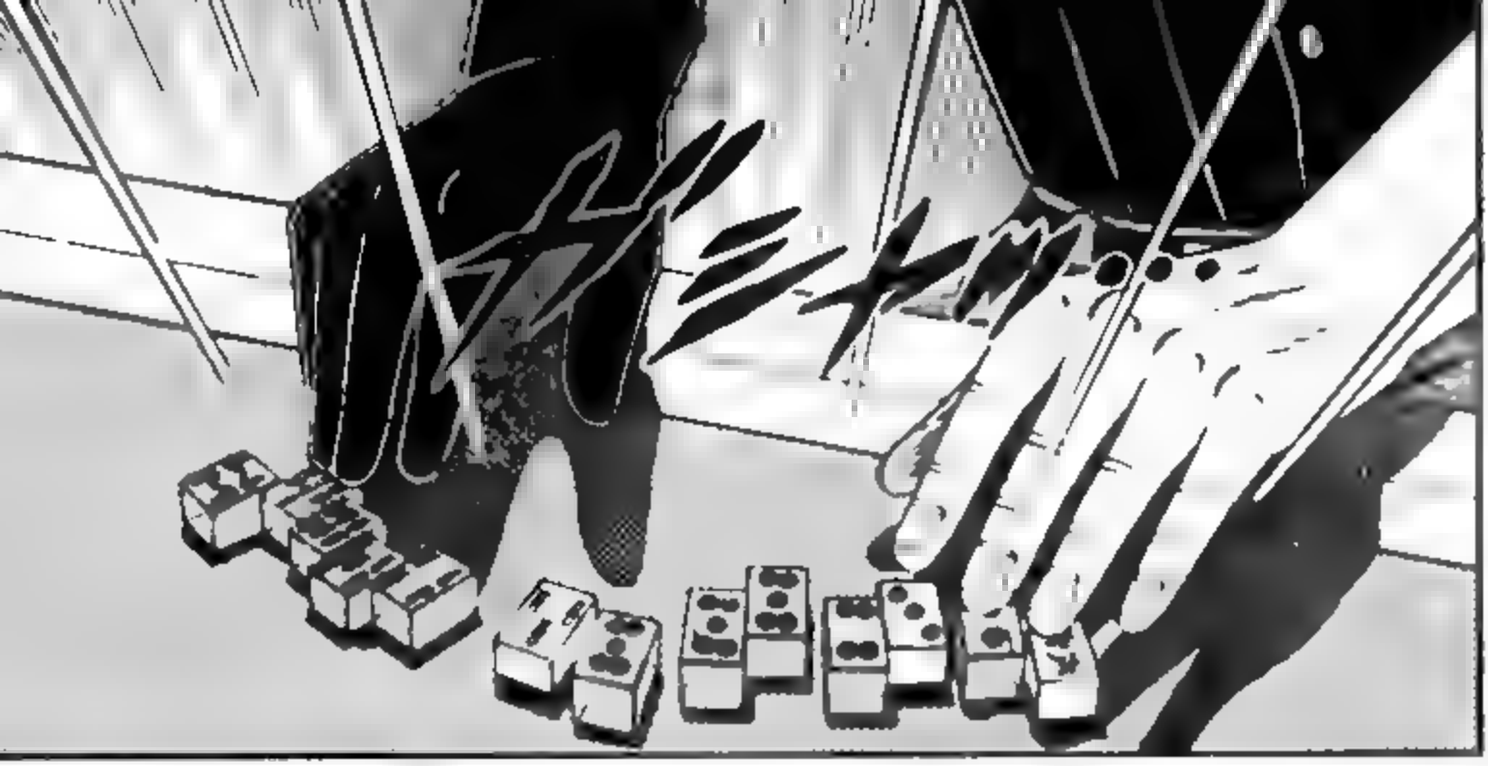
KHEH-
HEH-
HEH...
IF HE HADN'T SHOWN ME AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT OF TALENT!
THIS WOULD BE BORING...

IS A MOST WONDERFUL FLAVOR...!
SEEING SOMEONE STRUGGLING TO STAY ALIVE...

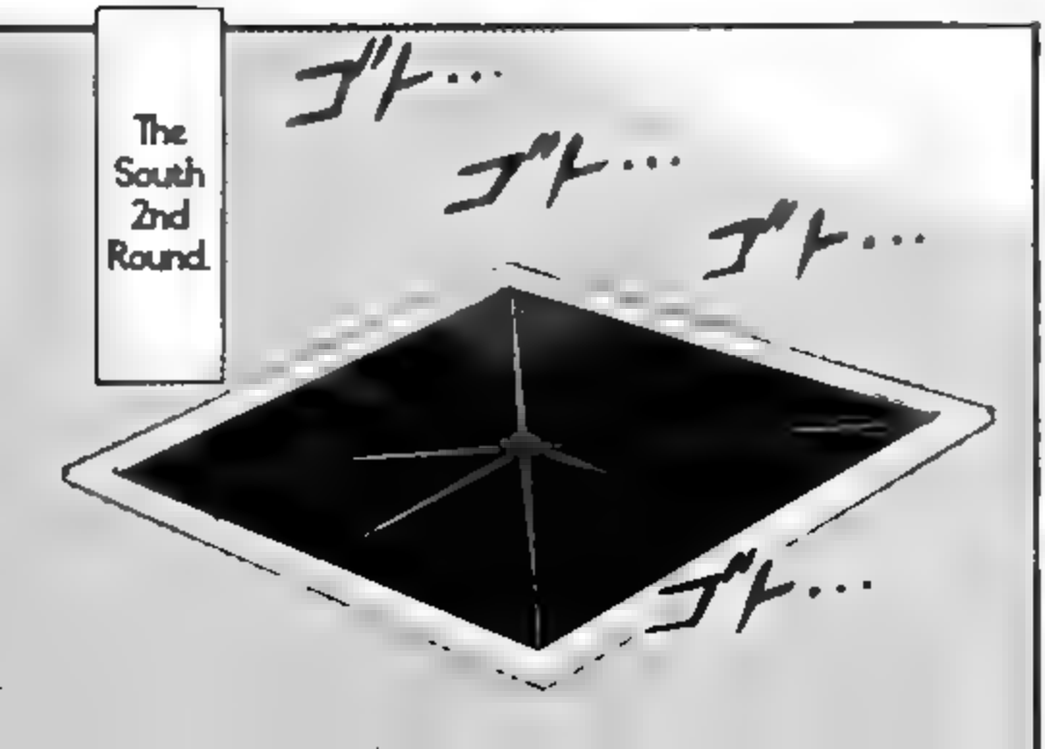
AFTER BEING CORNERED...
RESIST ME WITH ALL YOU HAVE!

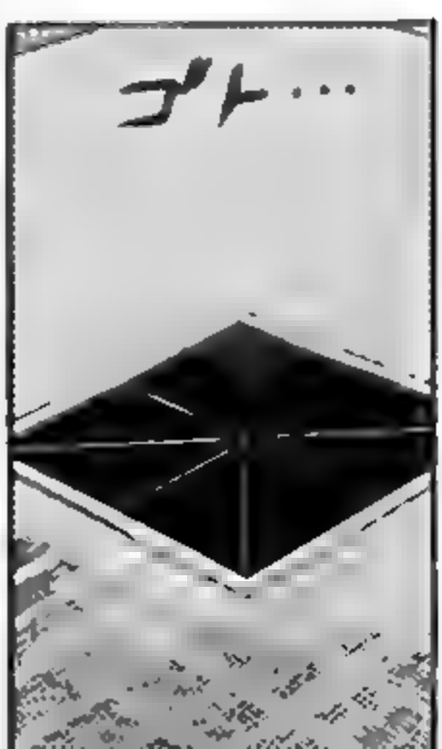

FIGHT BACK!


THERE IS NO GREATER JOY FOR ME!!



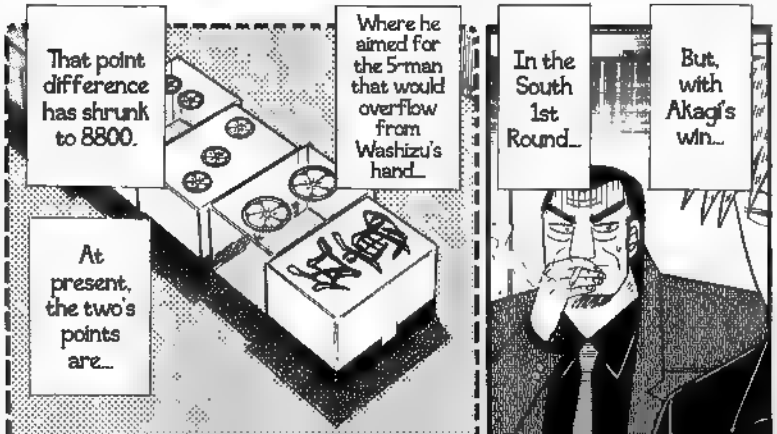
チャッ!


The South 2nd Round
ゴト…
ゴト…
ゴト…
ゴト…


ゴト…

THE GAME GOES INTO THE SOUTH 2ND ROUND!

There was a point difference of 14,000 between the two at that time.
At the end of the East Set, Washizu had had 40,000 points, while Akagi had had 26,000 points.

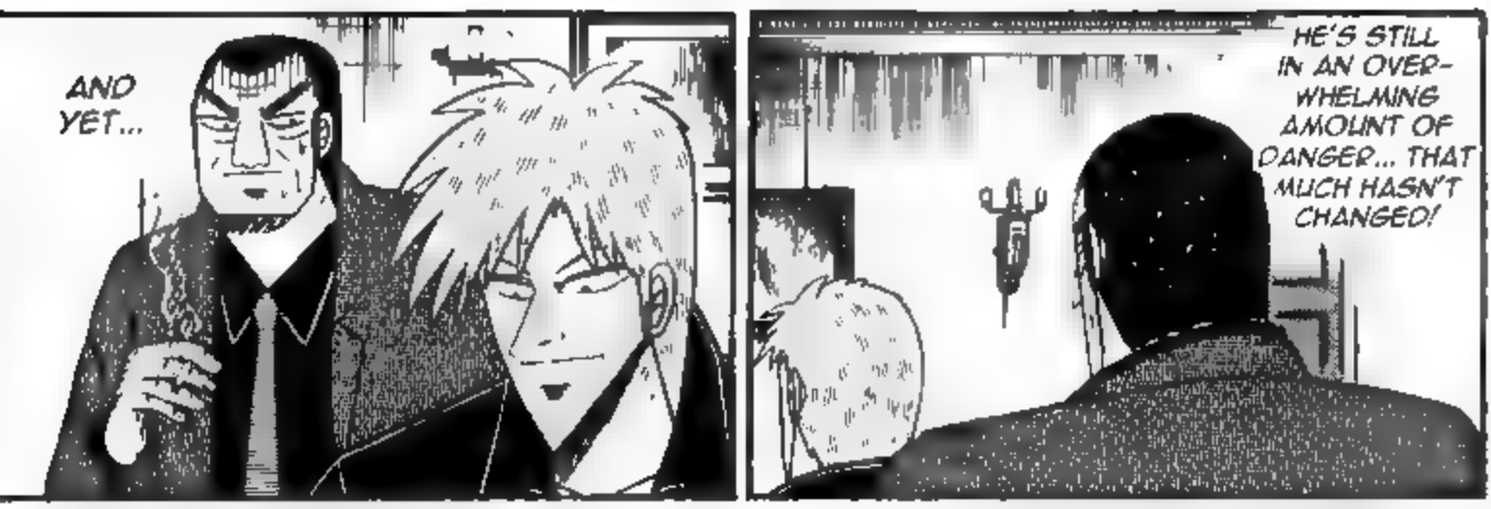

That point difference has shrunk to 8800.
Where he aimed for the 5-man that would overflow from Washizu's hand...
In the South 1st Round...
But, with Akagi's win...
At present, the two's points are...

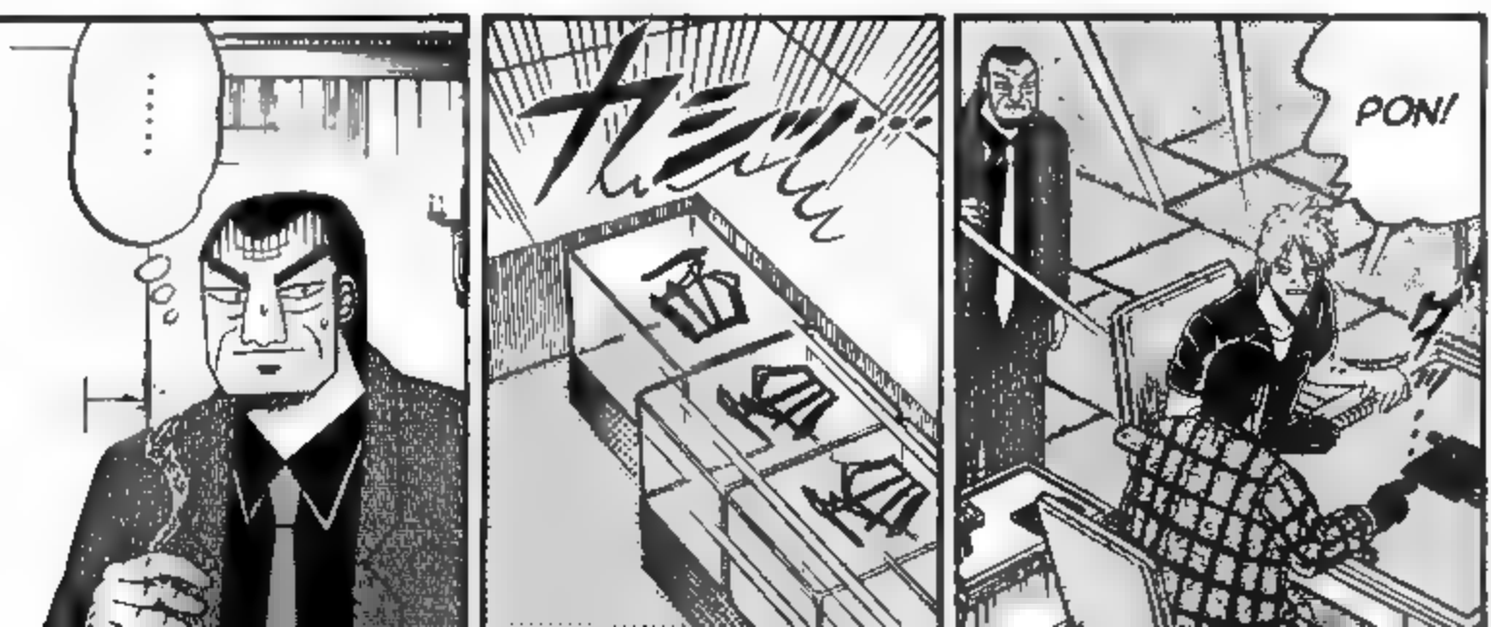
AND END THIS HANCHAN ABOVE WASHIZU
BEFORE ANYTHING EL'SE, HE HAS TO OVER-TAKE THAT DIFFERENCE
8800 POINTS...

OR AKAGI WON'T MAKE IT TO THE 2ND HANCHAN ALIVE!

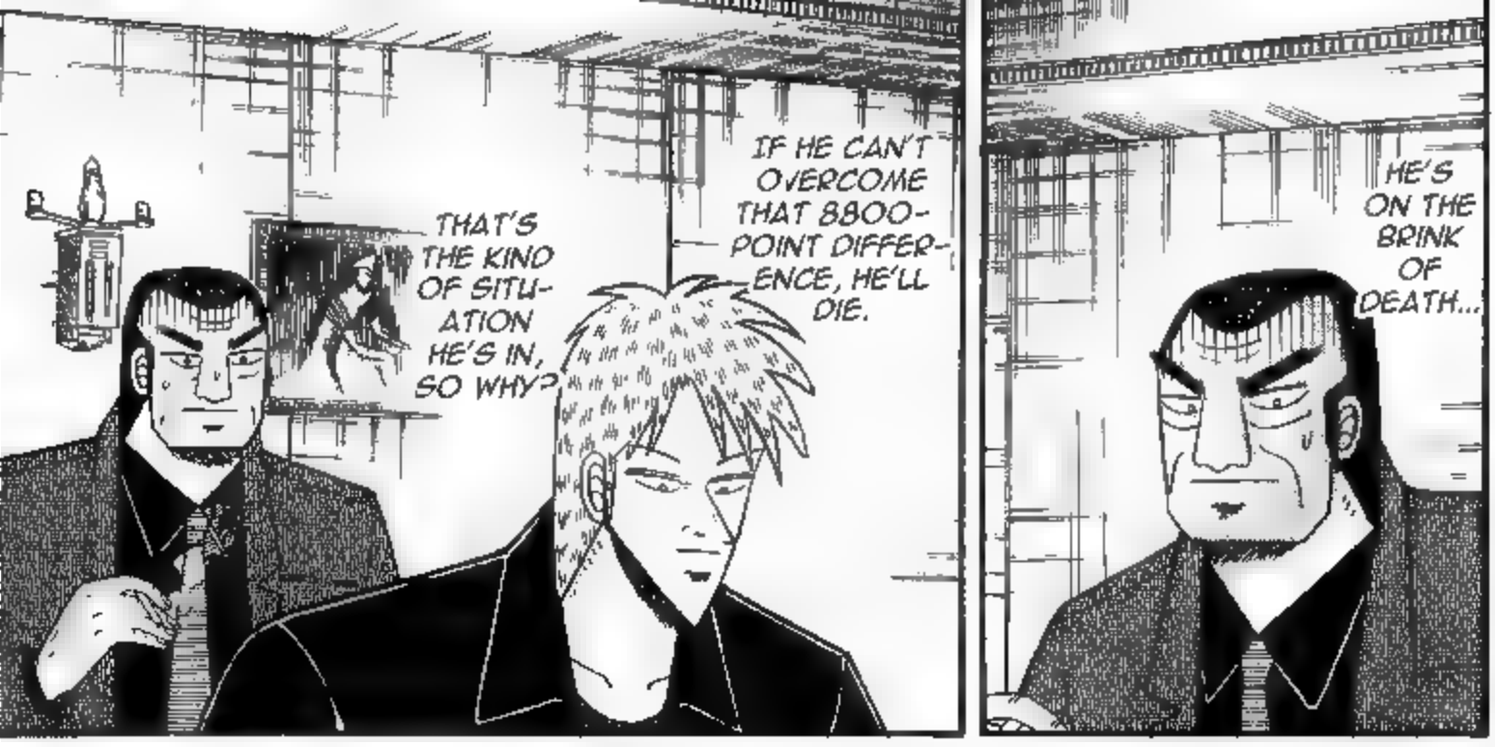
AND HIS FATE WILL BE COMPLETELY SEALED!
HE'LL HAVE OVER 2000 CCS DRAWN BY THE END-OF-SESSION PAYMENTS
IF HE DOESN'T PLACE HIGHER THAN WASHIZU
HE'LL DIE...!
THAT WILL MEAN DEATH!

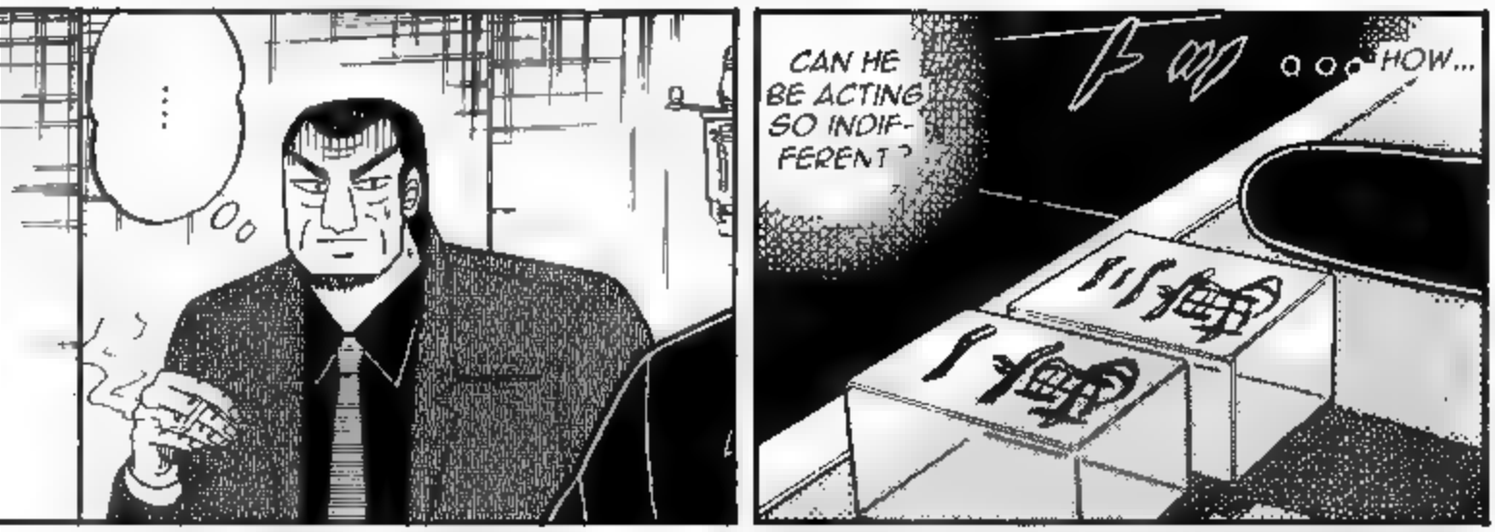
HE'S IN DANGER!

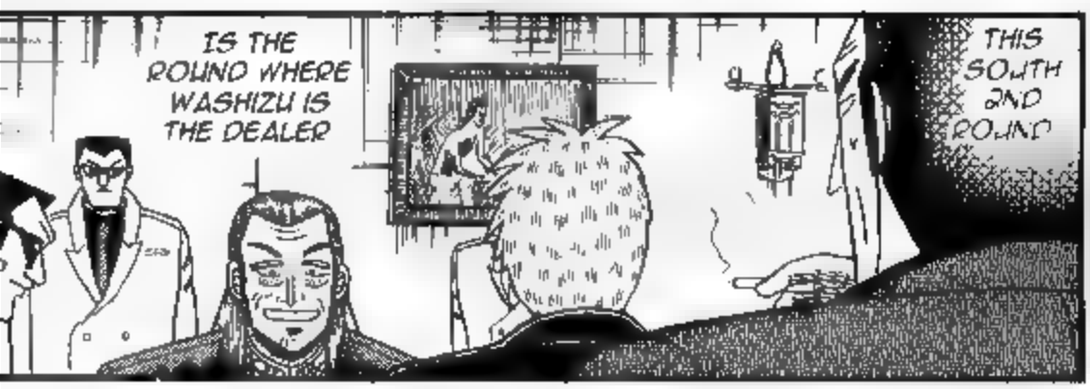

AND YET...
HE'S STILL IN AN OVER-WHELMING AMOUNT OF DANGER... THAT MUCH HASN'T CHANGED!


.....
AEEE!!!...
PON!

HOW CAN HE BE SO CALM...?


THAT'S THE KIND OF SITUATION HE'S IN, SO WHY?
IF HE CAN'T OVERCOME THAT 8800-POINT DIFFERENCE, HE'LL DIE.
HE'S ON THE BRINK OF DEATH...


...
CAN HE BE ACTING SO INDIFFERENT?
HOW...


IS THE ROUND WHERE WASHIZU IS THE DEALER
THIS SOUTH 2ND ROUND

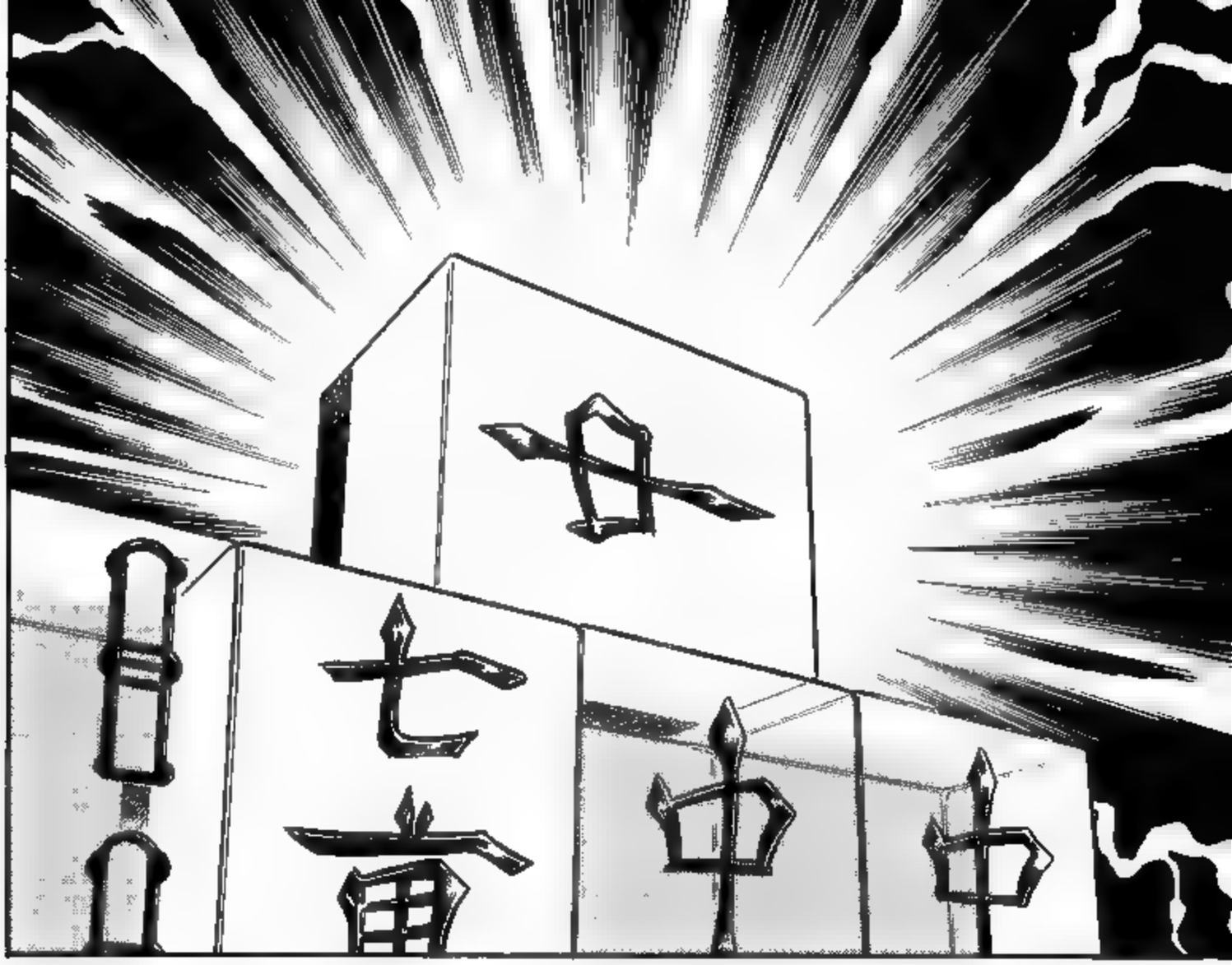
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THIS IS WHERE HE HAS TO FIGHT!

IT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN UNDERSTAND

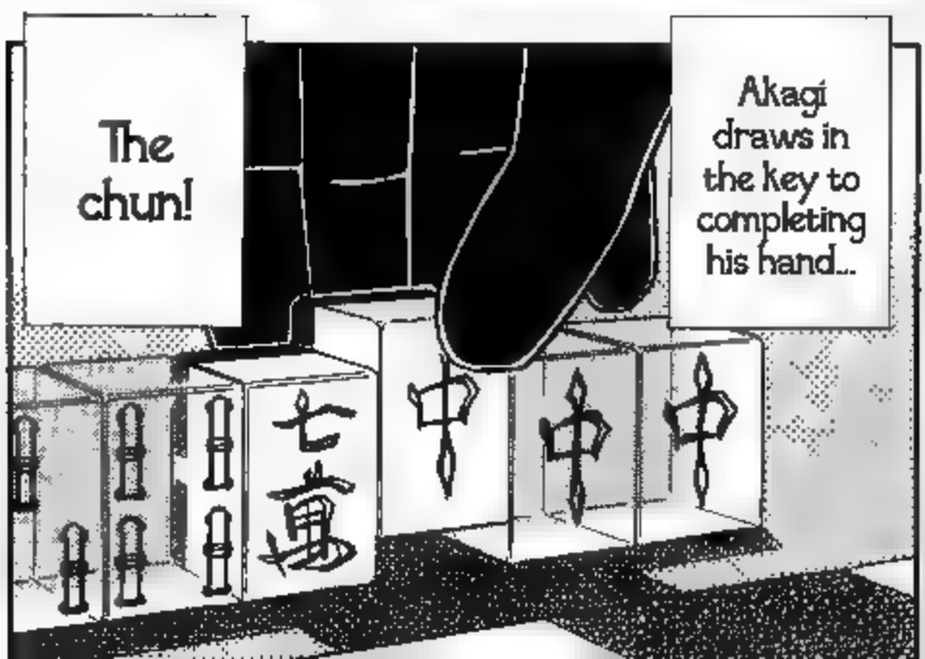
THE CHANCES OF HIM COMING OUT VICTORIOUS WILL GO UP A TON!
BUT...
AND BRING IT DOWN EVEN LOWER...
TO TAKE THIS POINT DIFFERENCE OF 8800...
AND HE CAN STRING TOGETHER A WIN...
IF THINGS GO WELL FOR HIM HERE...
AND FLIPS THAT AROUND ON US...
IF WASHIZU USES HIS DEALER TURN.

WITH DEALER BONUS ROUNDS, THERE'S NO TELLING HOW HIGH IT WILL GO.
OR 15,000, OR 20,000...
THE DIFFERENCE WILL GO UP TO OVER 10,000...
LAST ROUND'S WIN WILL DISSOLVE TO NOTHING.

HE HAS TO GET WASHIZU'S DEALER TURN AWAY FROM HIM, NO QUESTION!
IN THIS SOUTH 2ND ROUND...
YEAH...
HE HAS TO AT LEAST AVOID THAT, NO MATTER WHAT.
WHY IS HE STILL AS CALM AS EVER?
SO HOW.
HASN'T FIGURED THAT MUCH OUT FOR HIM-SELF.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT THIS MAN...
HOW...?
HOW CAN HE NOT SEEM CONCERNED AT ALL...?

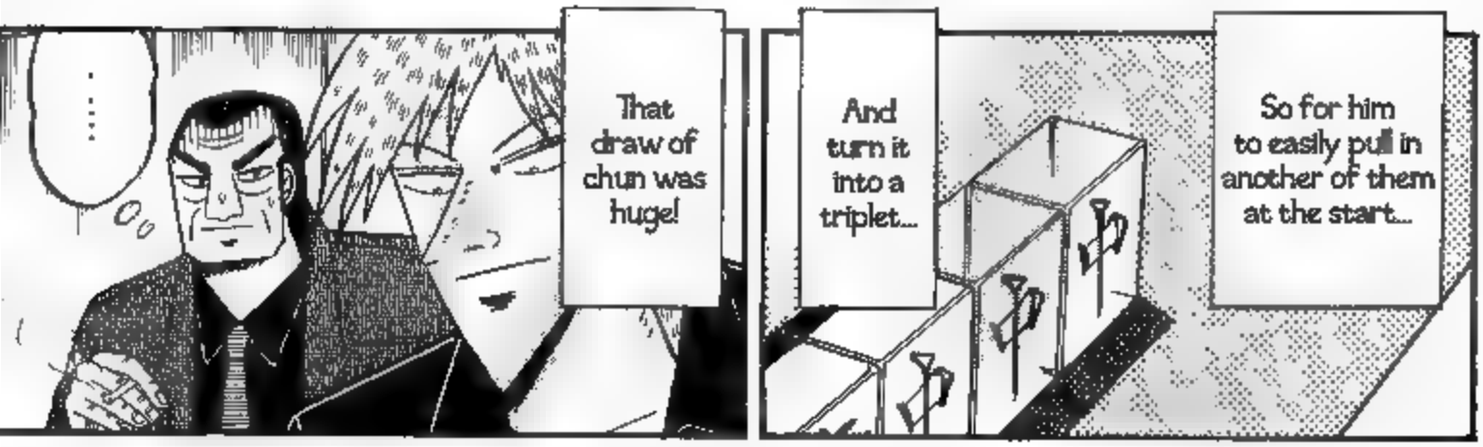


Perhaps lured in by that very indifference...
AH-...!

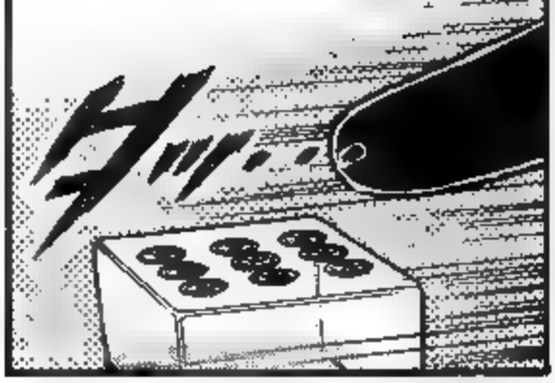

The chun!
Akagi draws in the key to completing his hand...

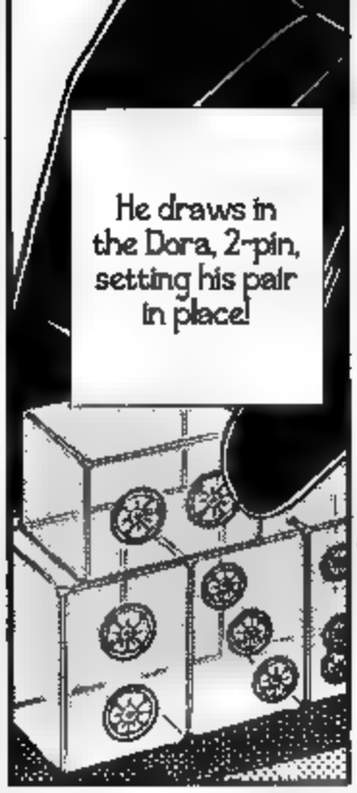
To get this Chun from his opponents.
If he were to call to get it...
Akagi would certainly not be able...
In Washizu Mahjong, where tiles in your hand are transparent...

The most troublesome part of his hand.
So in a way, this pair of chun would have been...
It would have to be from his ally, Yasuoka.
Like with the Xia that he called earlier...

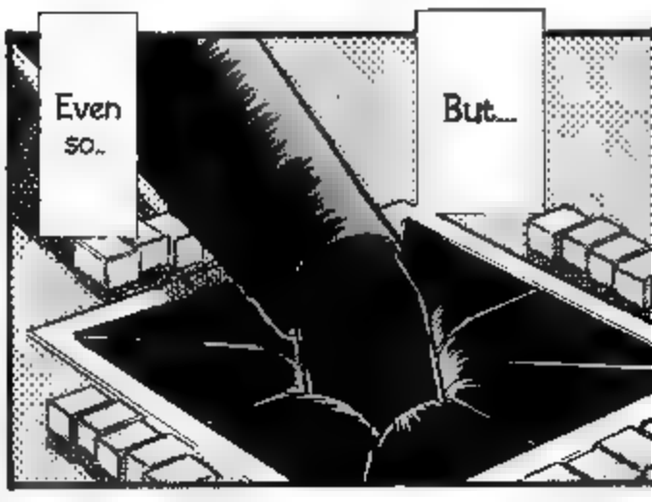

.....
That draw of chun was huge!
And turn it into a triplet...
So for him to easily pull in another of them at the start...

The winds were beginning to shift!





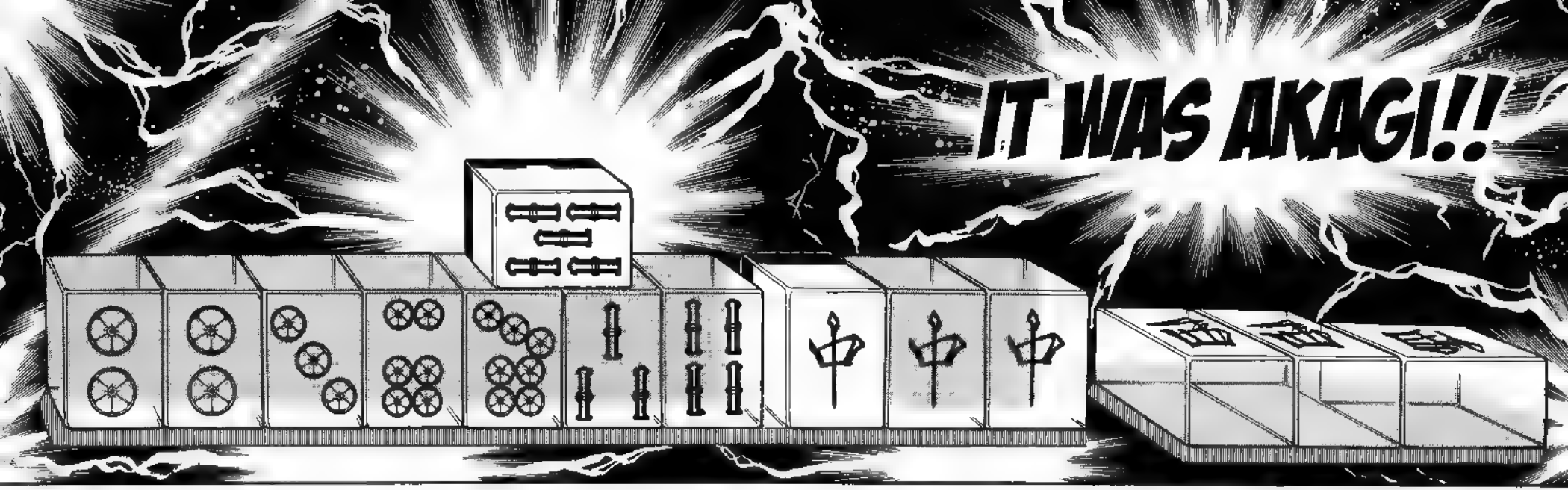
ON THE 6TH TU-RN...

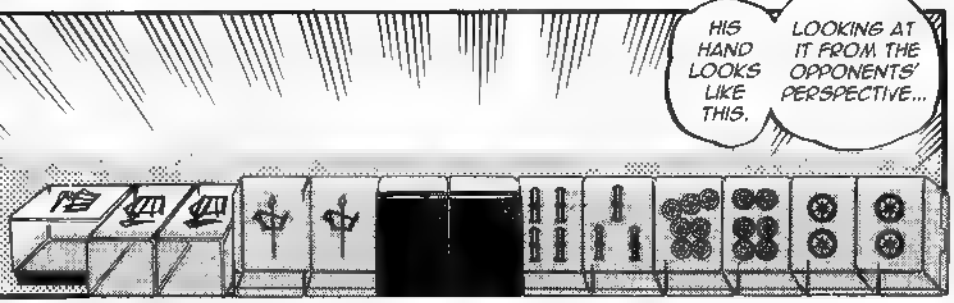


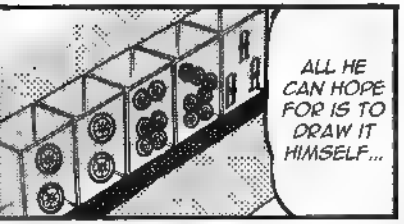
WHO...?
.....
So that he could deal as soon as possible.
Had many tiles that could become Washizu's winning tiles...

OR WASHIZU?!
WILL IT BE AKAGI...
WHO WILL HIT TENPAI FIRST...?!

AKA-GI'S 8TH TURN ...!!
On the 8th turn...

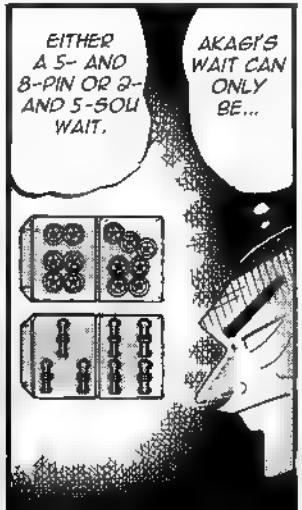

IT WAS AKAGI!!

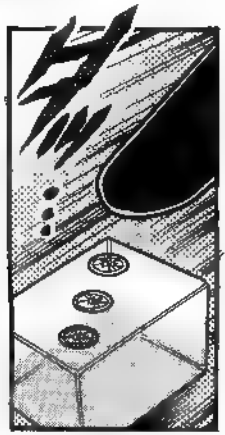

HIS HAND LOOKS LIKE THIS.
LOOKING AT IT FROM THE OPPONENTS' PERSPECTIVE...


ALL HE CAN HOPE FOR IS TO DRAW IT HIMSELF...

OR TO HAVE YASU-OKA DRAW IT!

IN WHICH CASE...
WE WON'T BE GETTING IT FROM WASHIZU.

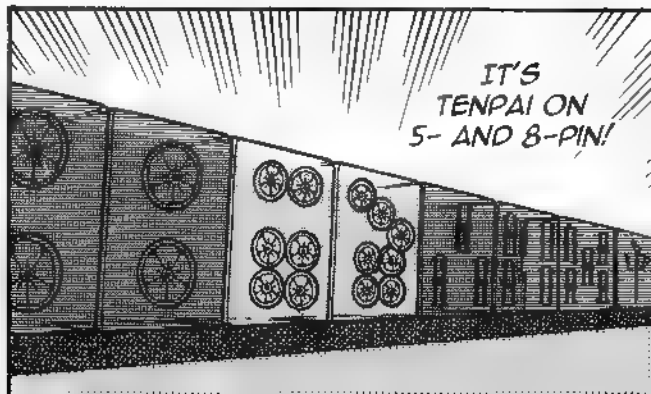

EITHER A 5- AND 8-PIN OR 2- AND 5-SOU WAIT.
AKAGI'S WAIT CAN ONLY BE...

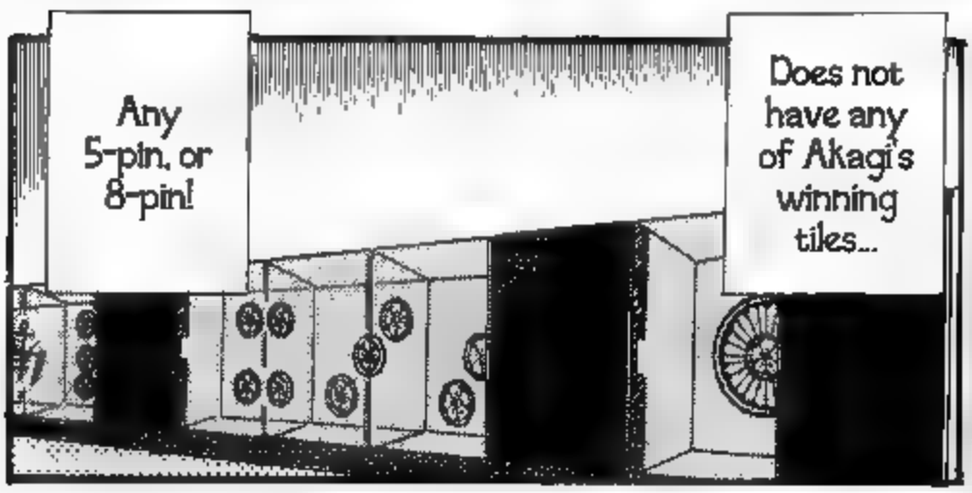

HE DID IT...!

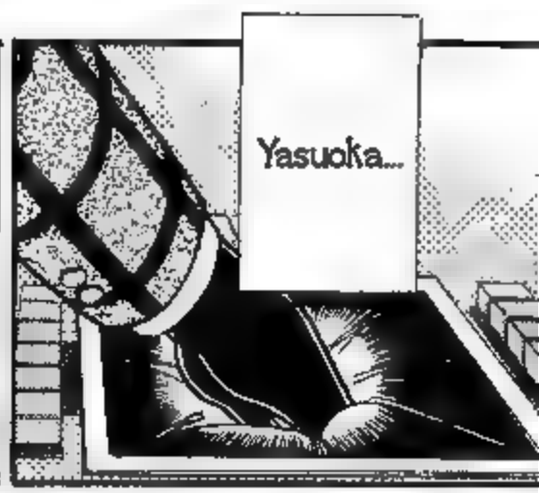
.....

Akagi was the first to reach Tenpai!!

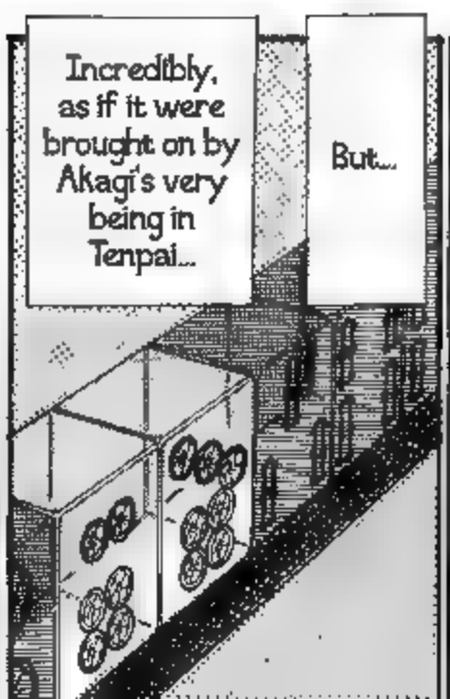
BUT...

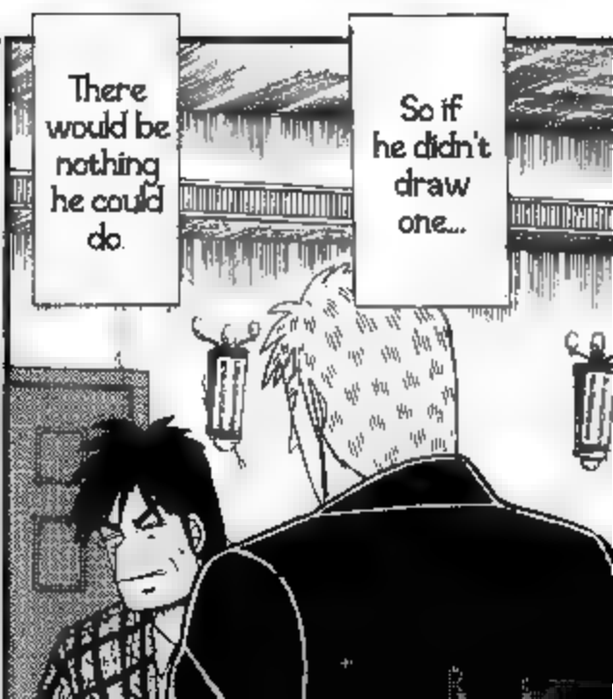

IT'S TENPAI ON 5- AND 8-PIN!

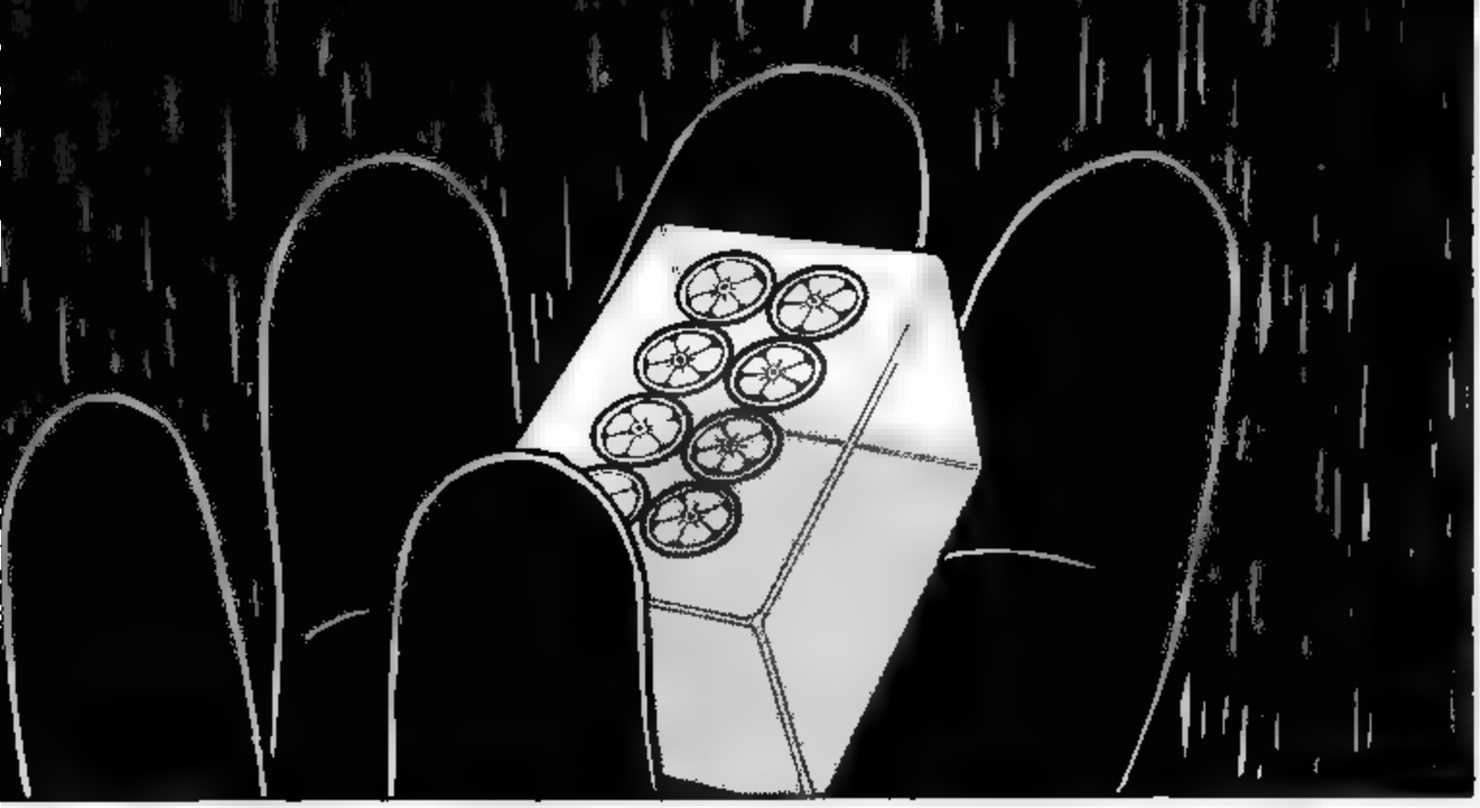

Any 5-pin, or 8-pin!
Does not have any of Akagi's winning tiles...

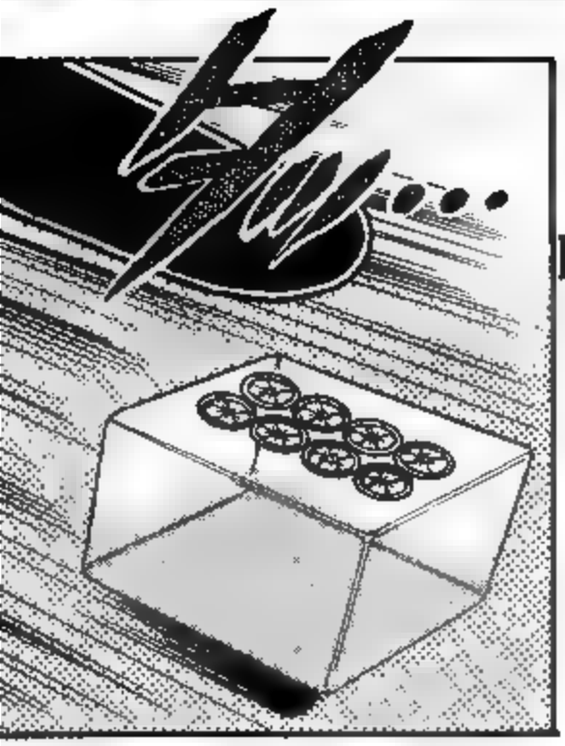

Yasuoka...

On the same 8th turn...
DOOO


Incredibly, as if it were brought on by Akagi's very being in Tenpai...
But...


There would be nothing he could do.
So if he didn't draw one...





And he plays it!

ALL RIII-GHT!!

THIS 8-PIN WILL REVIVE HIM AT ONCE!

THIS IS PRICE-LESS!

IT'LL TAKE AWAY WASHIZU'S DEALER TURN...

THE IDEAL WAY TO DEAL IN!
IT'LL KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!

8000 POINTS!
AND GIVE AKAGI A MANGAN...

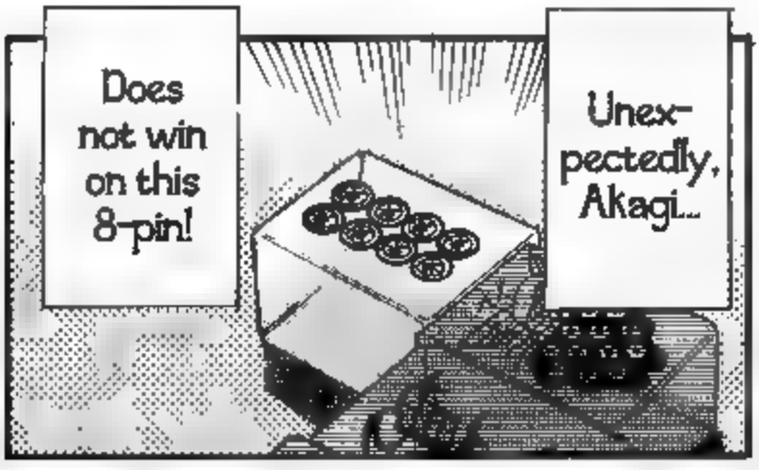
HUH...?

.....
?

But...

Akagi does not move!

AHH..!!

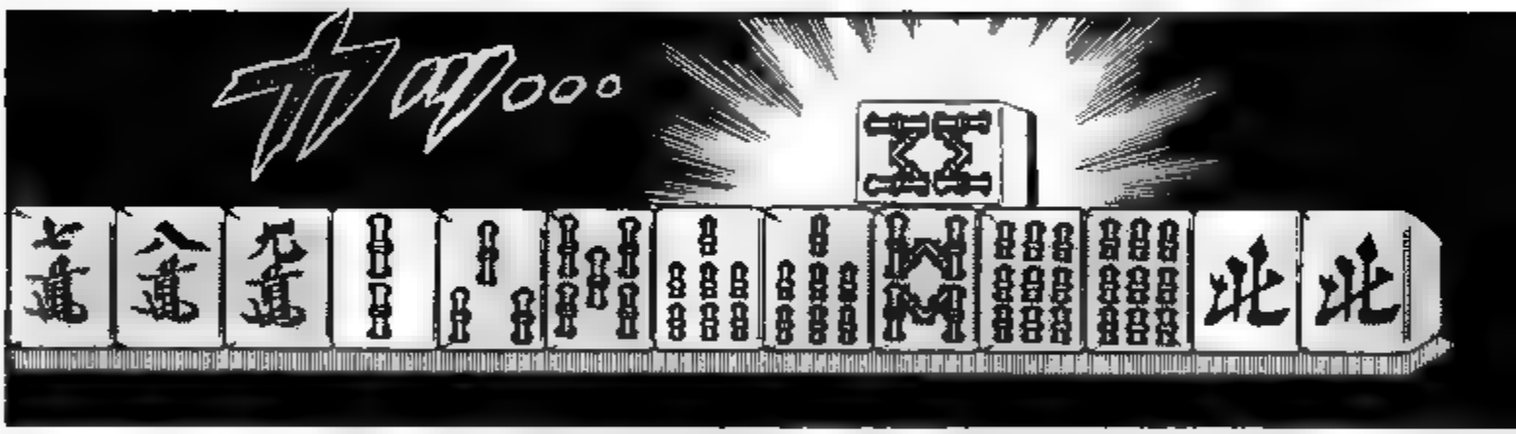

Does not win on this 8-pin!
Unex-pectedly, Akagi...

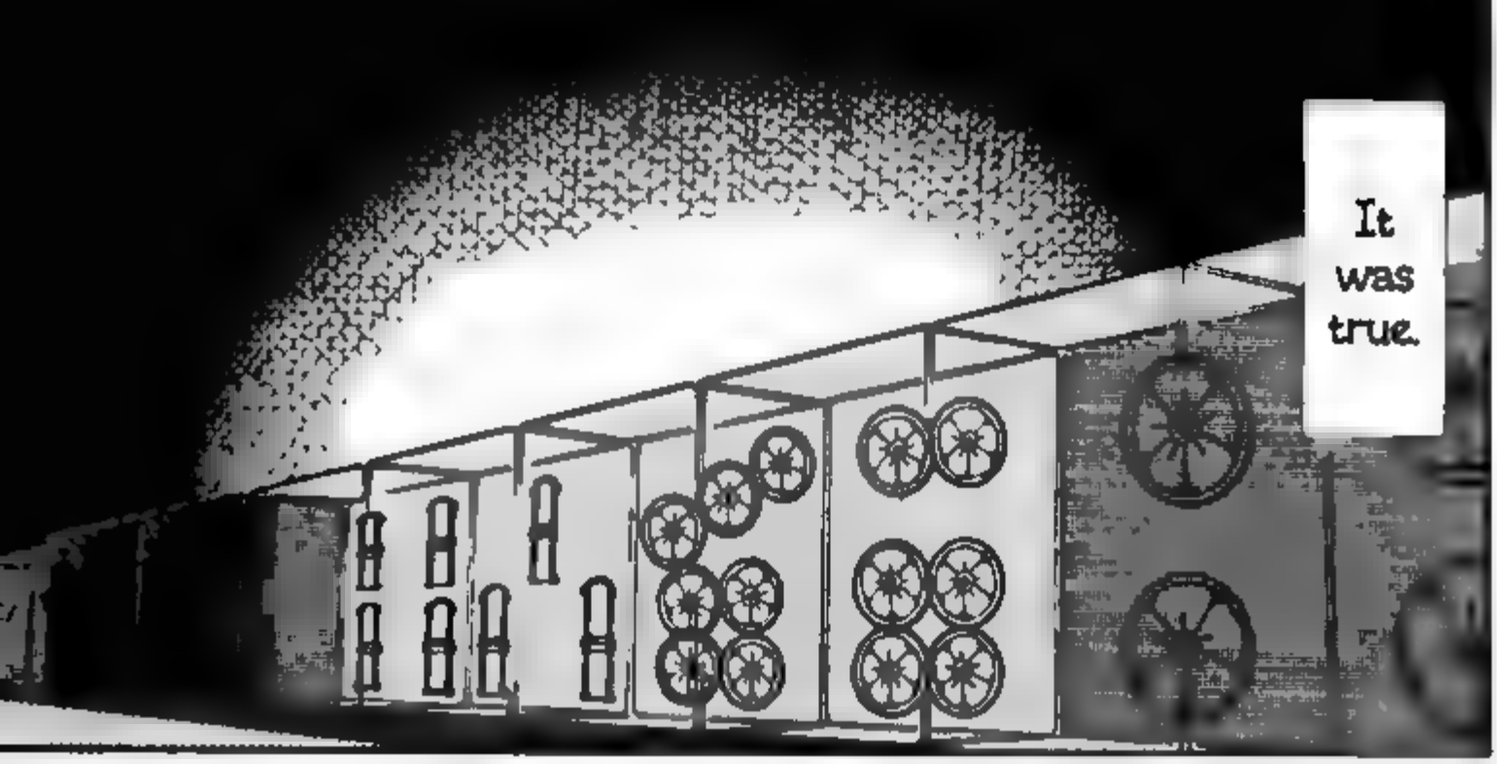
Ohgi could not see it.

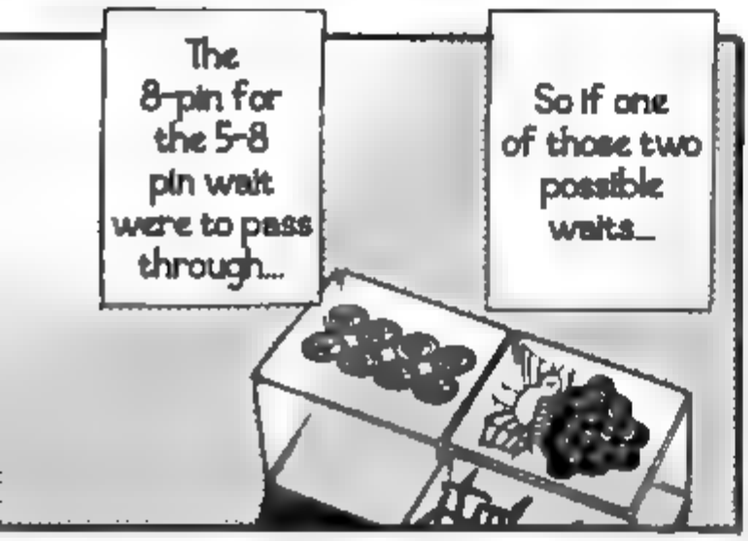
AKAGI!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

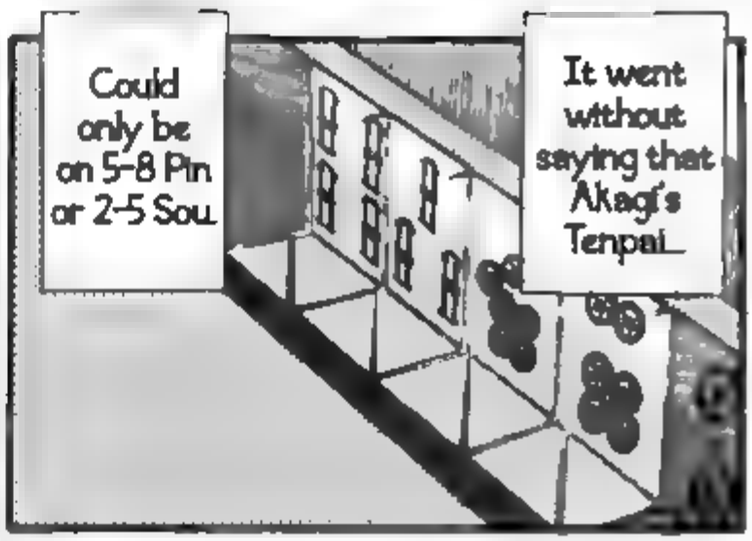
ARE YOU NUTS?!

Ohgi was only looking at the need to win, so he could not see...
AKAGI!!


ガアアア

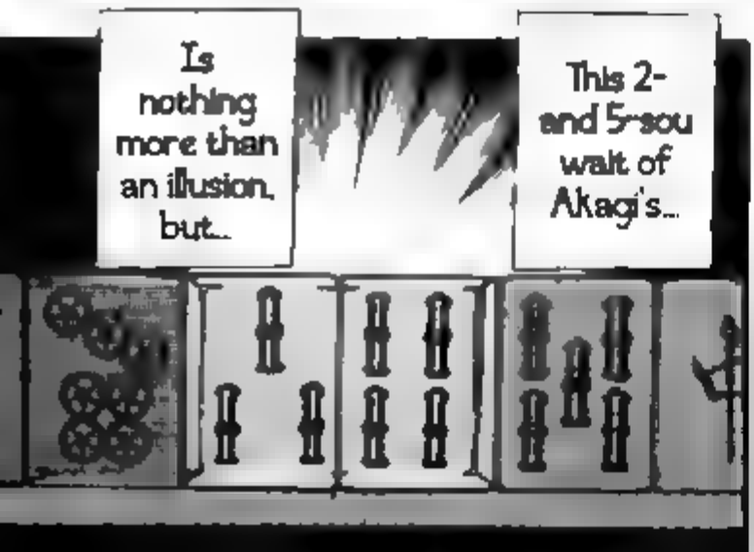

It was true.


The 8-pin for the 5-8 pin wait were to pass through...
So if one of those two possible waits...

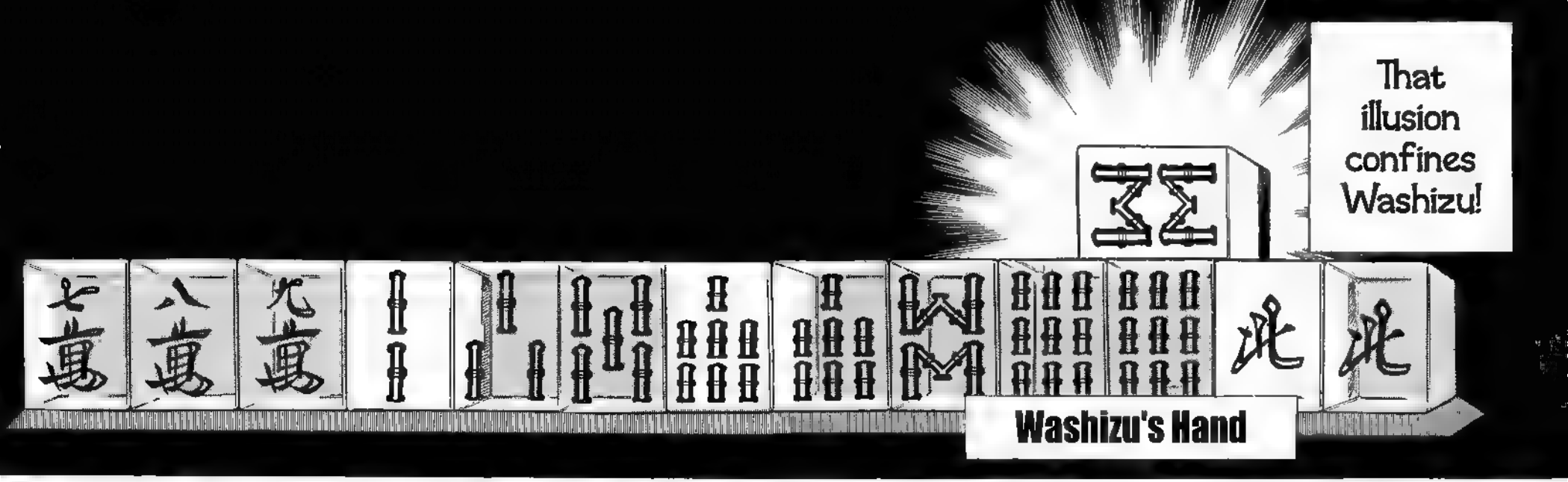

Could only be on 5-8 Pin or 2-5 Sou
It went without saying that Akagi's Tenpai...

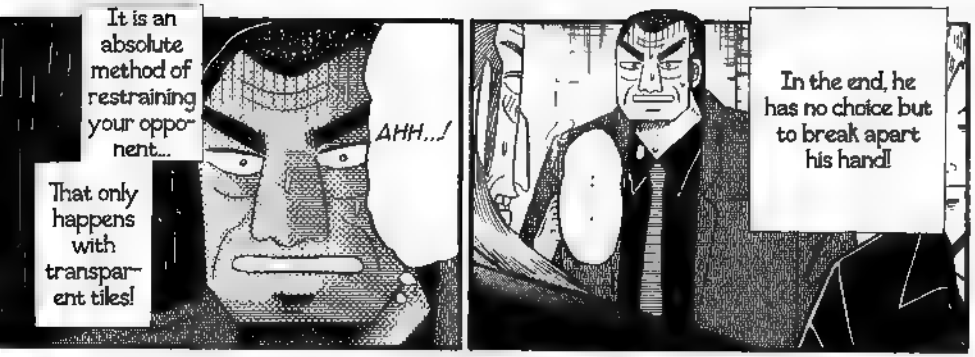
Akagi not winning on the 8-pin makes that inevitable!
Akagi's wait would almost certainly be on 2- and 5-sou.

The only possibility left would be the 2-5 sou wait!
...

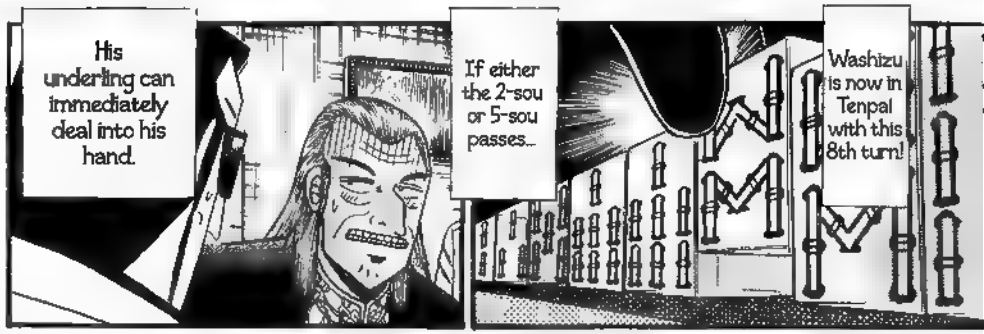

Is nothing more than an illusion. but...
This 2- and 5-sou wait of Akagi's...

AH...!

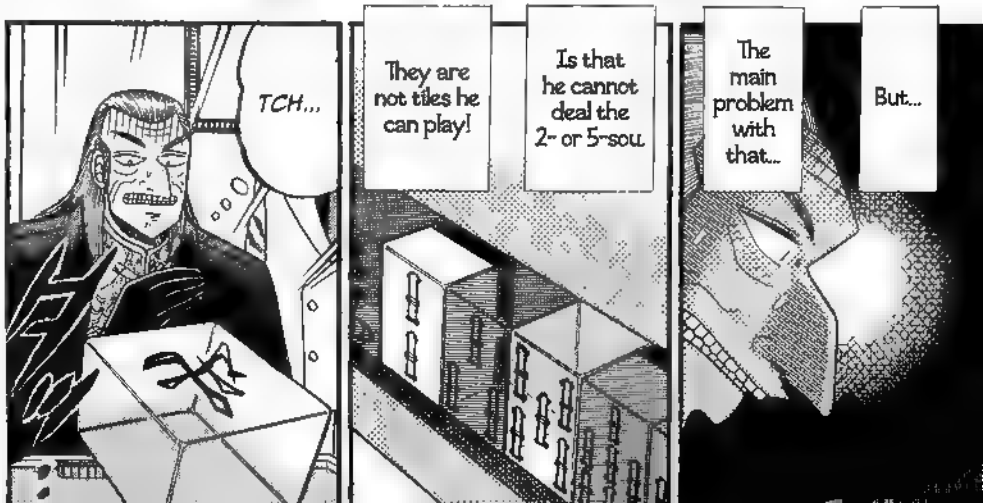

That illusion confines Washizu!
Washizu's Hand


It is an absolute method of restraining your opponent...
That only happens with transparent tiles!
AHH...!

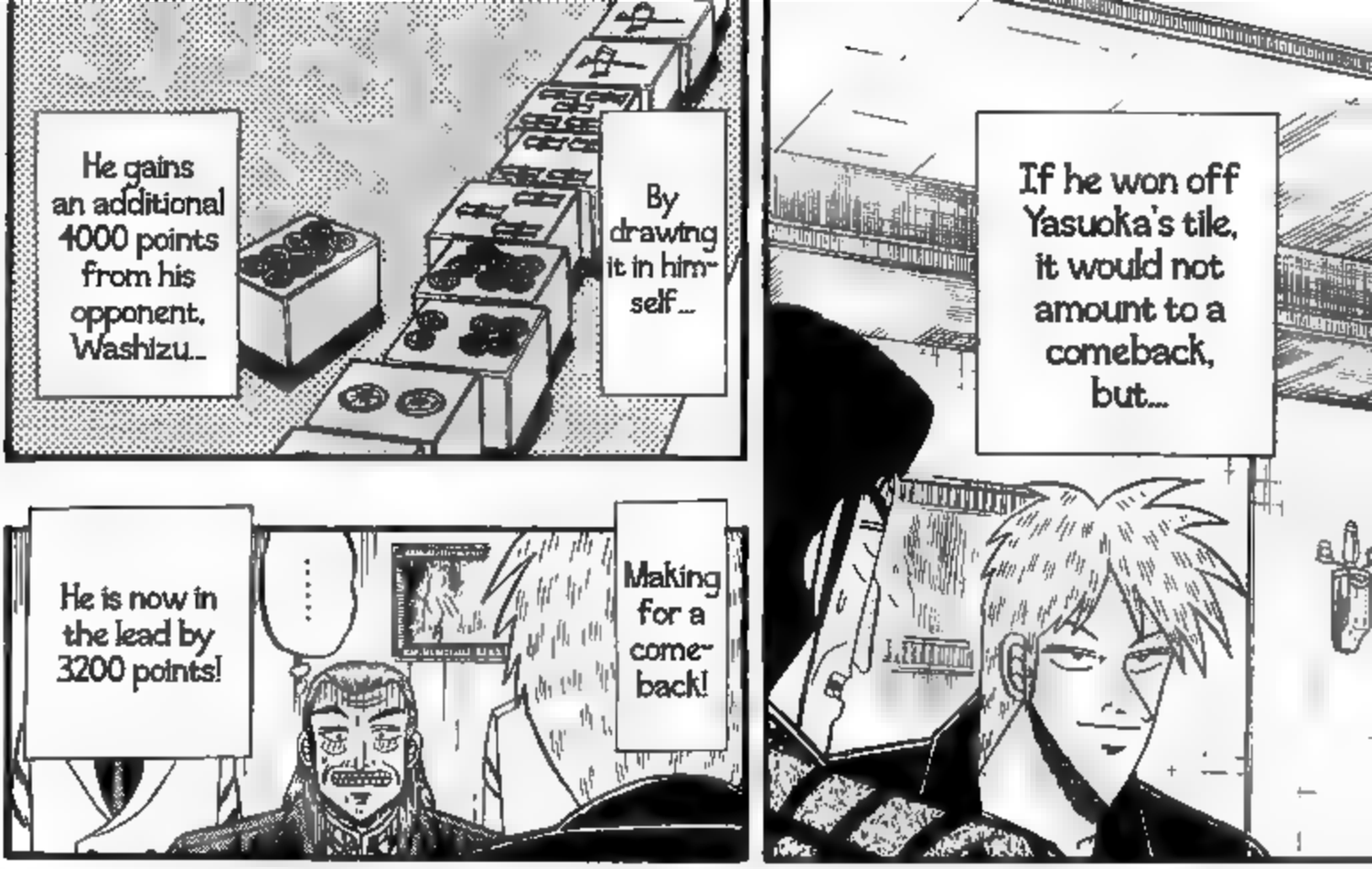
In the end, he has no choice but to break apart his hand!

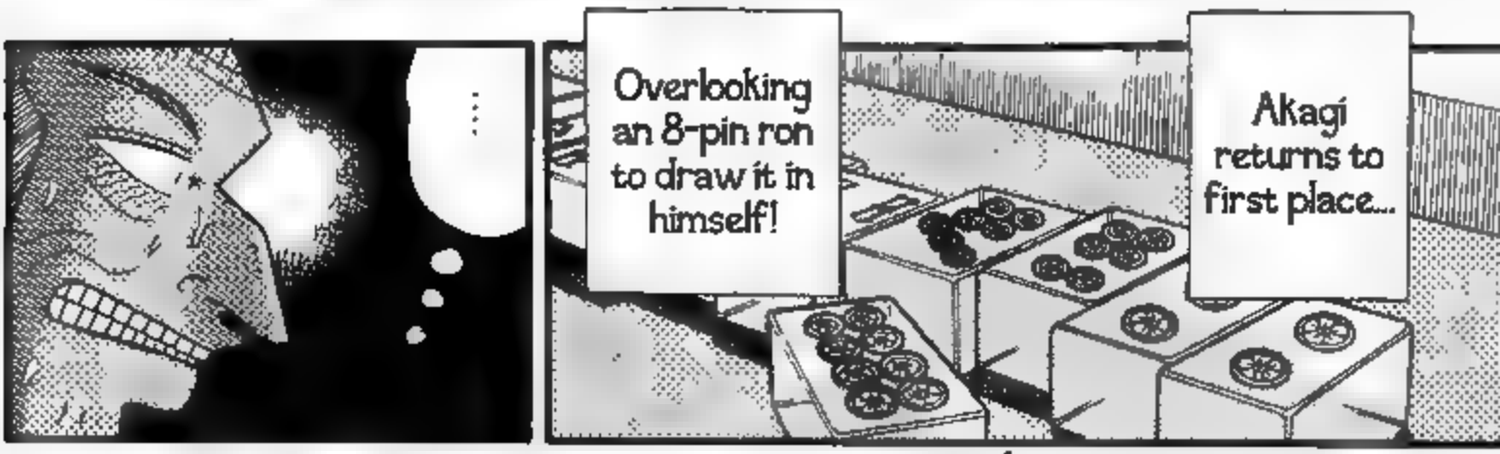

His underling can immediately deal into his hand.
If either the 2-sou or 5-sou passes...
Washizu is now in Tenpai with this 8th turn!

As a result of that postponement...!
And then, on the 10th turn...
Akagi has plenty of time left!
Even if he doesn't rush to take a win...


TCH...
They are not tiles he can play!
Is that he cannot deal the 2- or 5-sou.
The main problem with that...
But...

HE PULLS IT IN!
CHUN, XIA, WITH A DORA...
MAN-GAN!
A COMEBACK MANGAN!
It's a come-back!
ざわ..
ざわ..
ざわ..
ざわ..


He gains an additional 4000 points from his opponent, Washizu...
By drawing it in himself...
If he won off Yasuoka's tile, it would not amount to a comeback, but...
He is now in the lead by 3200 points!
.....
Making for a comeback!


.....
Overlooking an 8-pin ron to draw it in himself!
Akagi returns to first place...

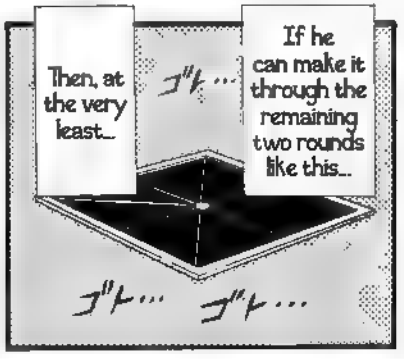
HE'S SCREWING WITH ME...!
THIS BRAT...

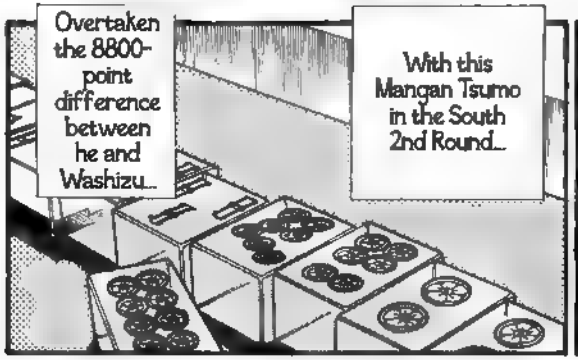
EVASION

CHAPTER 76: 第76話 回避

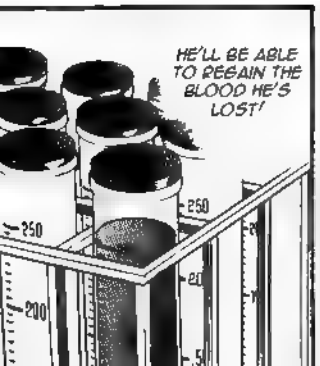
……
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
Lost Blood: 400 ccs
Current Profit:
7.6 Million Yen

……
He will be able to make it out of this Hanchan alive.


Then, at the very least...
If he can make it through the remaining two rounds like this...
ゴト…
ゴト…
ゴト…


Overtaken the 8800-point difference between he and Washizu...
With this Mangan Tsumo in the South 2nd Round...

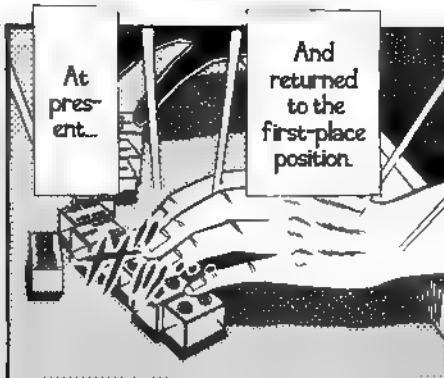
Akagi had...


HE'LL BE ABLE TO REGAIN THE BLOOD HE'S LOST!
250
200

THEN THANKS TO THE END-OF-SESSION RANK PAYMENTS...
IF HE CAN JUST MAKE IT OUT

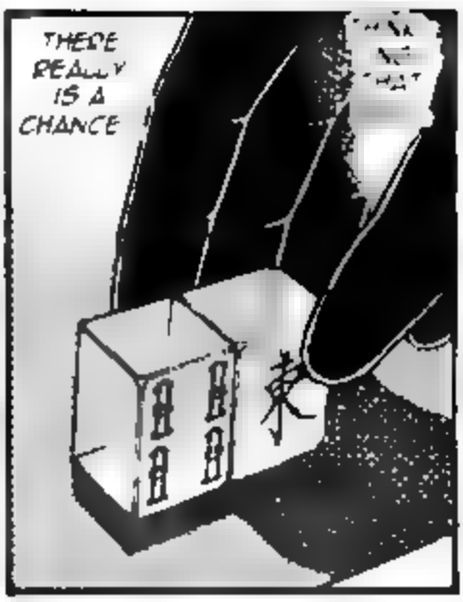
HE CAN MAKE IT...!

Akagi leads Washizu by 3200 points.
Akagi has 36,600 points, while Washizu has 33,400.
ゴゴ…
ゴゴ…


At present...
And returned to the first-place position.

HE'LL GET A FRESH START!

OF 2000 CCS FOR EVERY 20,000 POINTS
FOR HIM TO SURVIVE THESE STAKES


THERE REALLY IS A CHANCE

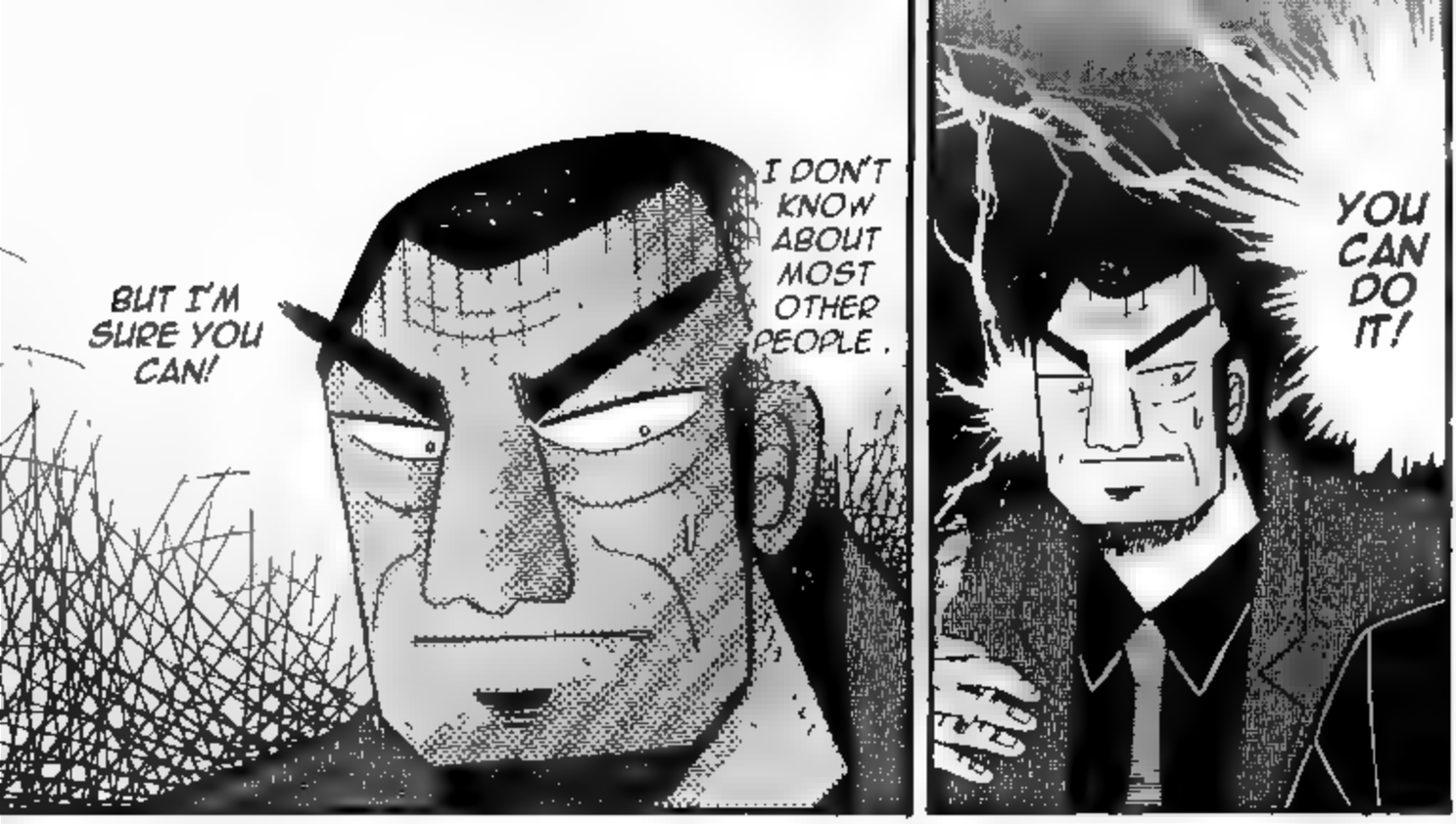
AND AT THE SAME TIME HE'LL BE ABLE TO GET ABOUT 40 MILLION YEN FROM THOSE PAYMENTS

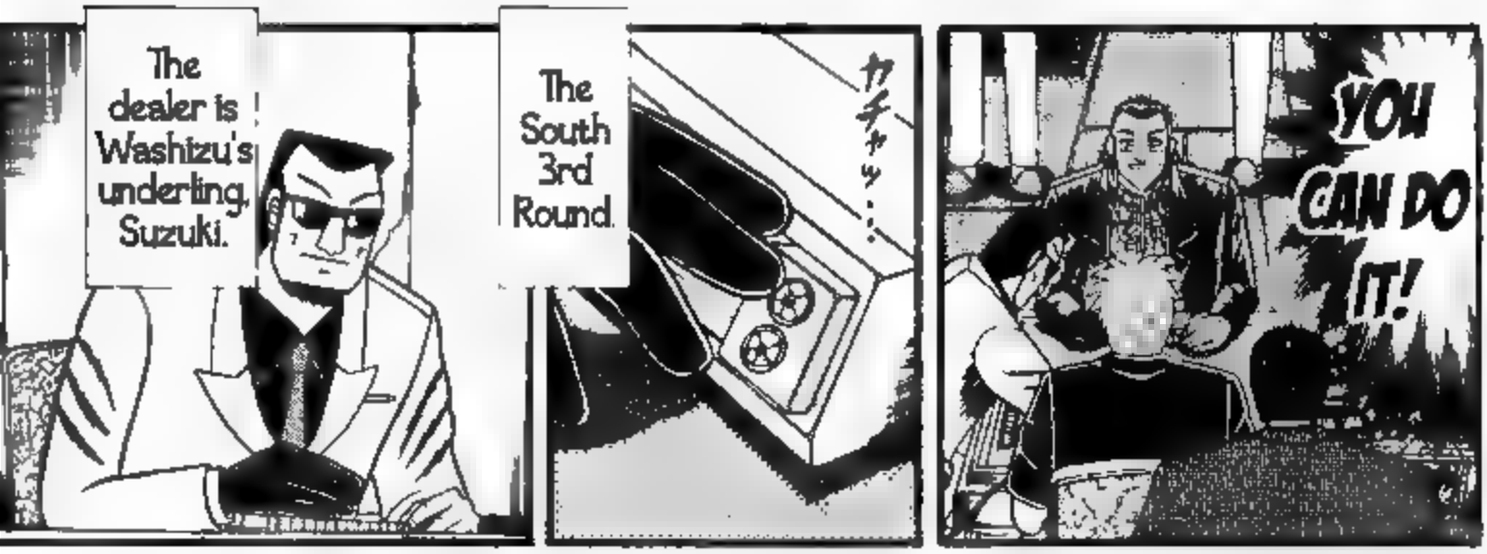
HE CAN GET 200 OR 300 MILLION
THE FULL 500 MILLION IS PROBABLY HOPELESS

IS REPEAT THIS FOR ALL 6 SESSIONS
ALL HE HAS TO DO

AKAGI

AND MAKE IT OUT OF THIS MANSION ALIVE
Ooo


I DON'T KNOW ABOUT MOST OTHER PEOPLE.
BUT I'M SURE YOU CAN!
YOU CAN DO IT!

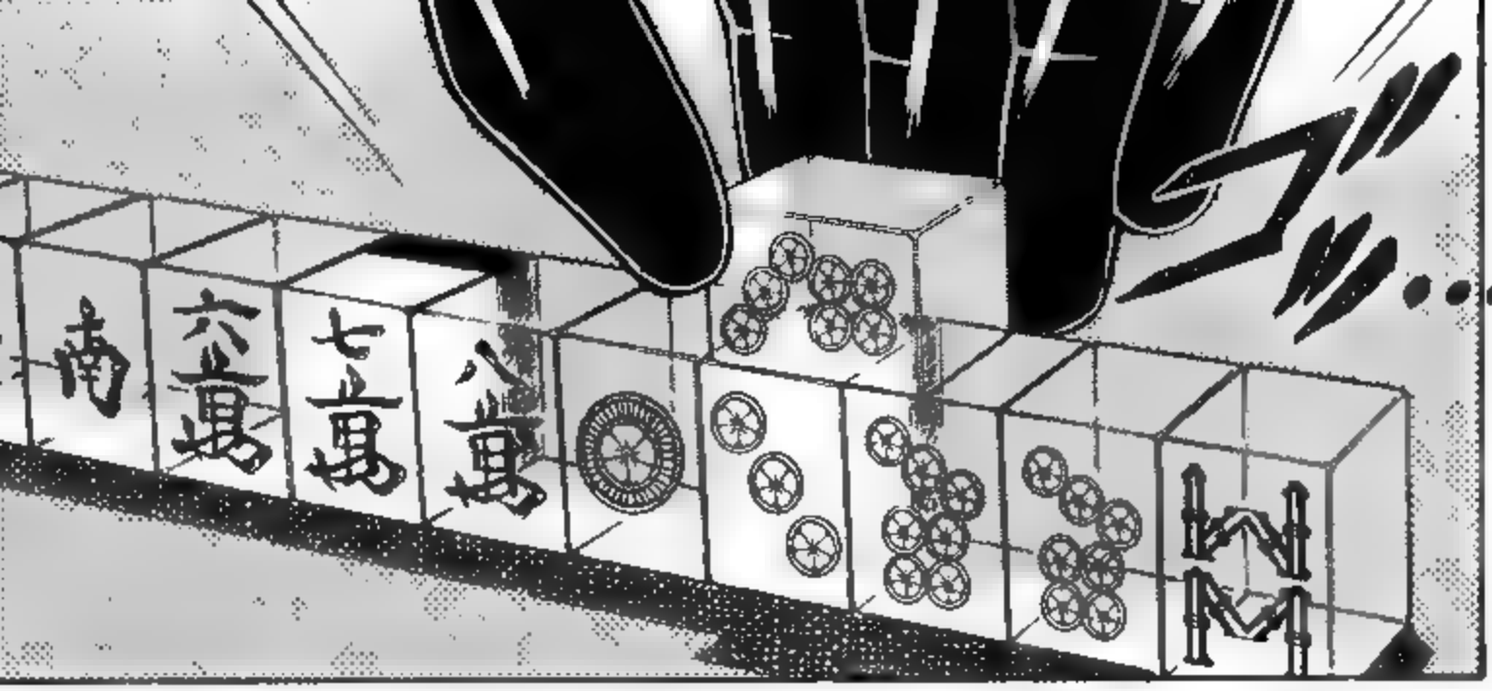

The dealer is Washizu's underling, Suzuki.
The South 3rd Round.
カチャッ…
YOU CAN DO IT!

Teetering on the brink of death...
He must survive two more rounds.
IT BE-GINS!

And survive these two rounds!
He must evade the dagger being thrust at him...

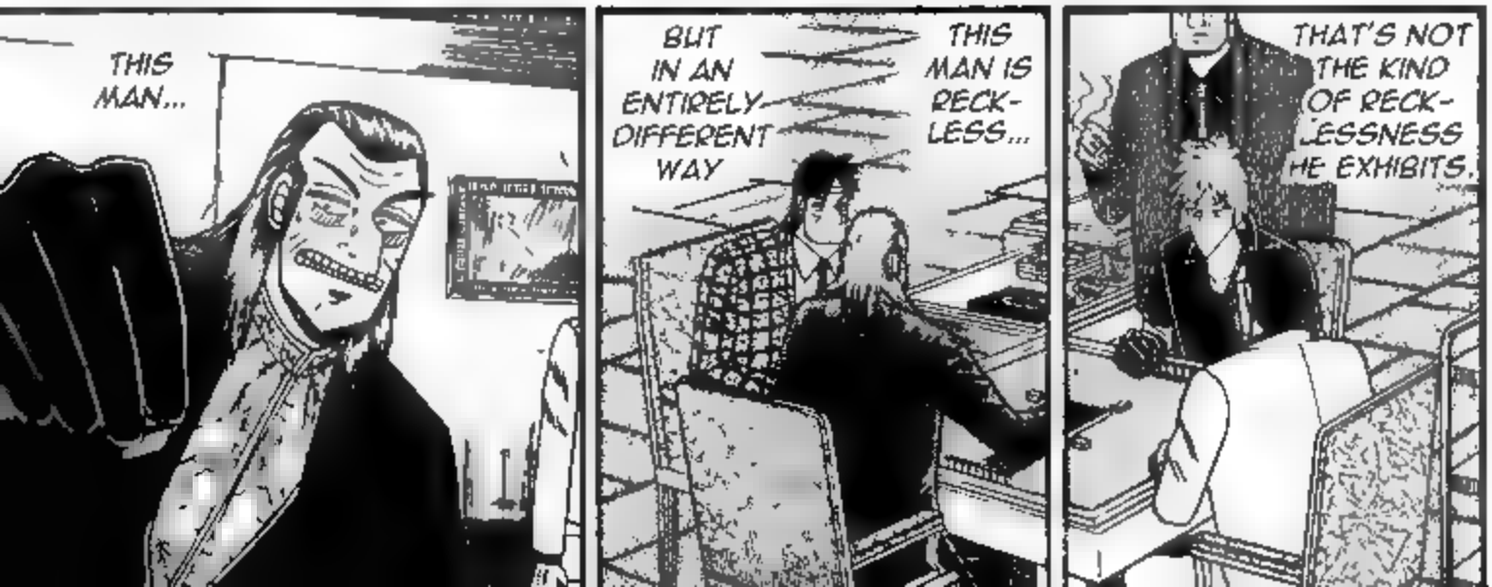
HM-PH.

I SEE
THERE'S MORE TO HIM THAN MEETS THE EYE
IT SEEMS
...


南
六萬
七萬
八萬

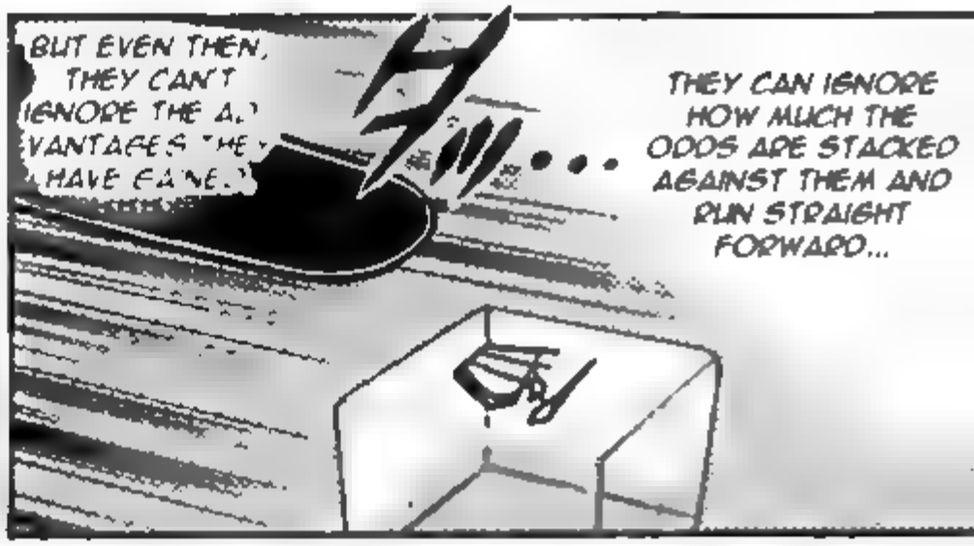
THIS MAN...

SIMPLY DASHING FORWARDS WITHOUT STOPPING TO LOOK.
HE DOESN'T GET WORKED UP AND STOP THINKING...
IS NOT COM-PLETE TRASH, AFTER ALL.


THIS MAN...
BUT IN AN ENTIRELY-DIFFERENT WAY
THIS MAN IS RECK-LESS...
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF RECK-LESSNESS HE EXHIBITS.

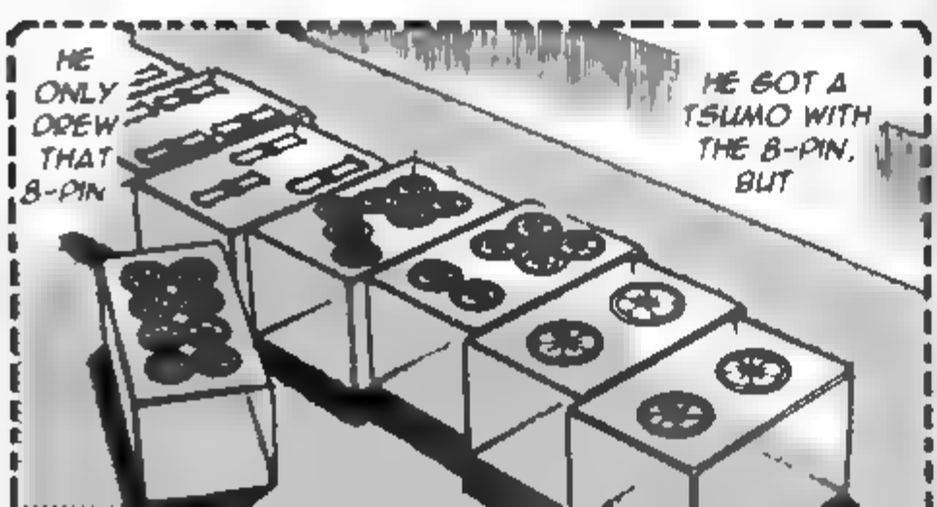
ALL THEY CAN DO IS TOSS ASIDE THEIR DISADVANTAGES
ORDINARY DAREDEVILS CAN'T DO THAT
BY SAYING "I DON'T CARE IF I DIE"
CAN TURN A BLIND EYE TO HIS ADVANTAGES!
西
南
南

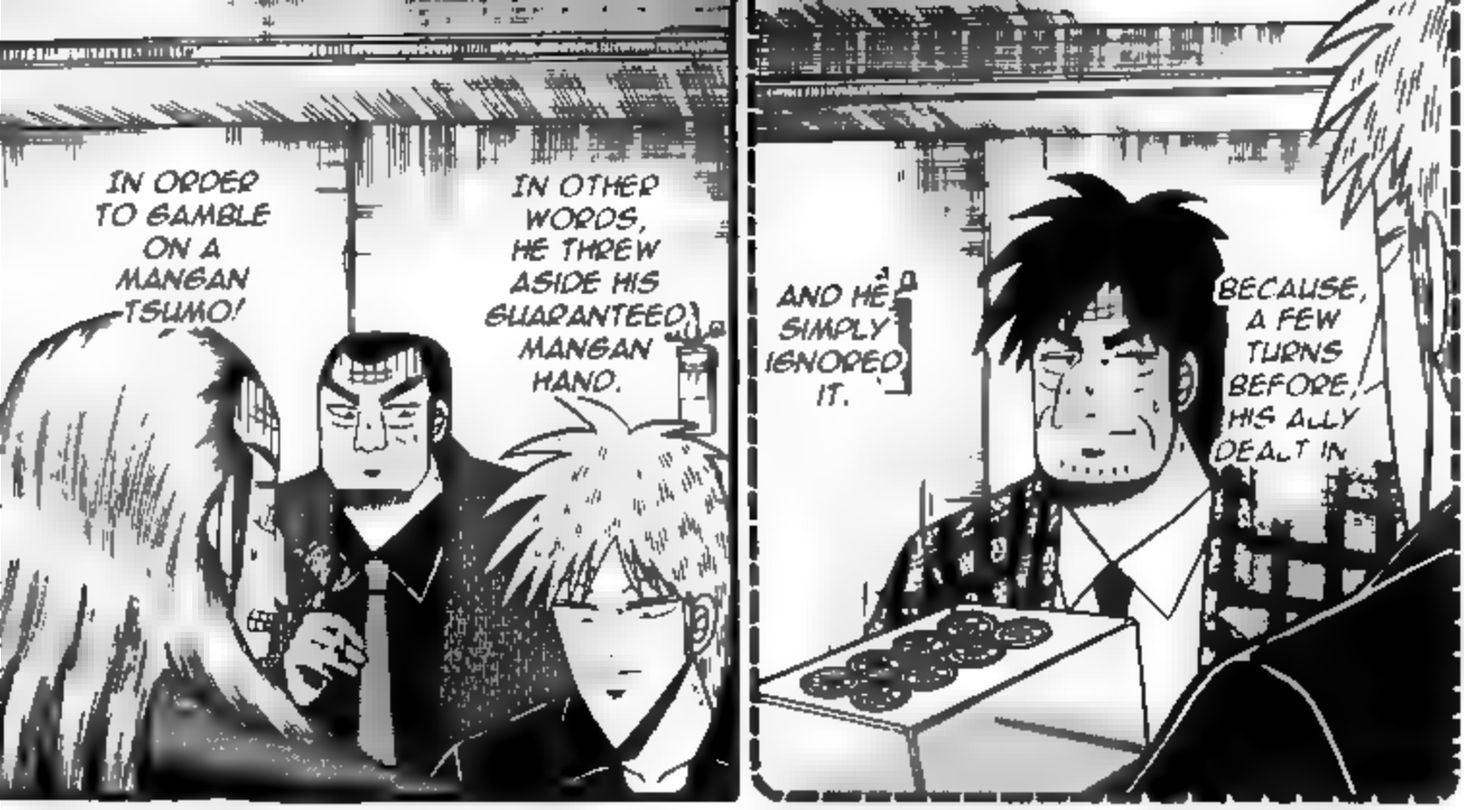
THAT ALLURING
ADVANTAGES ARE SIMPLY

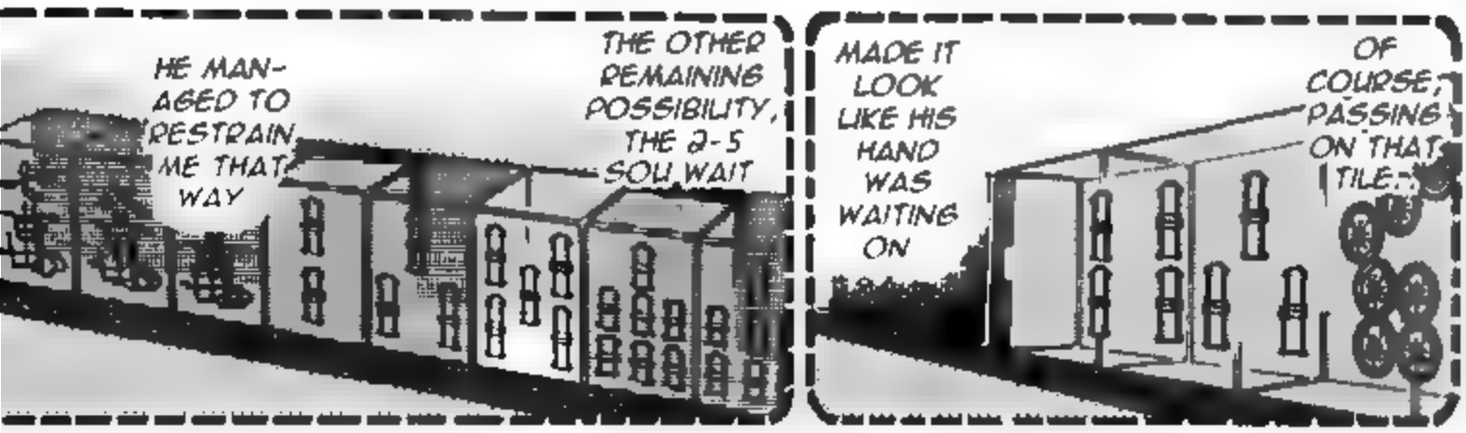

BUT EVEN THEN, THEY CAN'T IGNORE THE ADVANTAGES THEY HAVE GAINED...
THEY CAN IGNORE HOW MUCH THE ODDS ARE STACKED AGAINST THEM AND RUN STRAIGHT FORWARD...

LAST ROUND
BUT THIS MAN CAN TOSS ASIDE THOSE ADVANTAGES

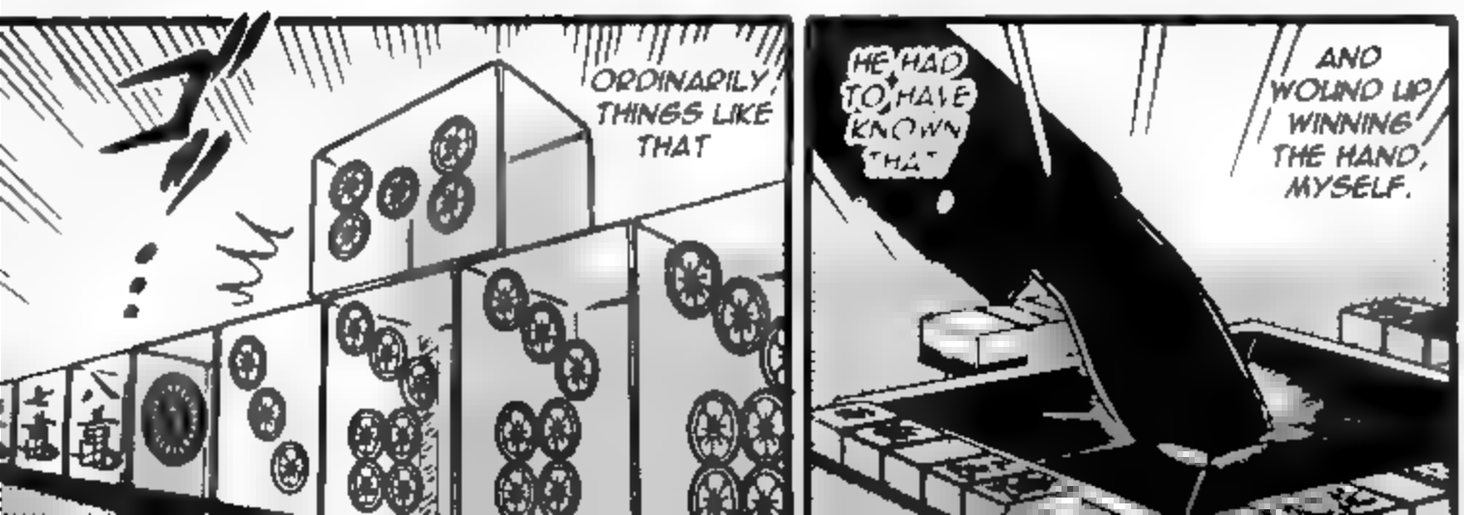
WHERE YOU'RE ALWAYS ONE WRONG MOVE FROM DEFEAT
ESPECIALLY IN THIS GAME


HE ONLY DREW THAT 8-PIN
HE GOT A TSUMO WITH THE 8-PIN, BUT


IN ORDER TO GAMBLE ON A MANGAN TSUMO!
IN OTHER WORDS, HE THREW ASIDE HIS GUARANTEED MANGAN HAND.
AND HE SIMPLY IGNORED IT.
BECAUSE, A FEW TURNS BEFORE, HIS ALLY DEALT IN


HE MANAGED TO RESTRAIN ME THAT WAY
THE OTHER REMAINING POSSIBILITY, THE 2-5 SOU WAIT
MADE IT LOOK LIKE HIS HAND WAS WAITING ON
OF COURSE, PASSING ON THAT TILE.

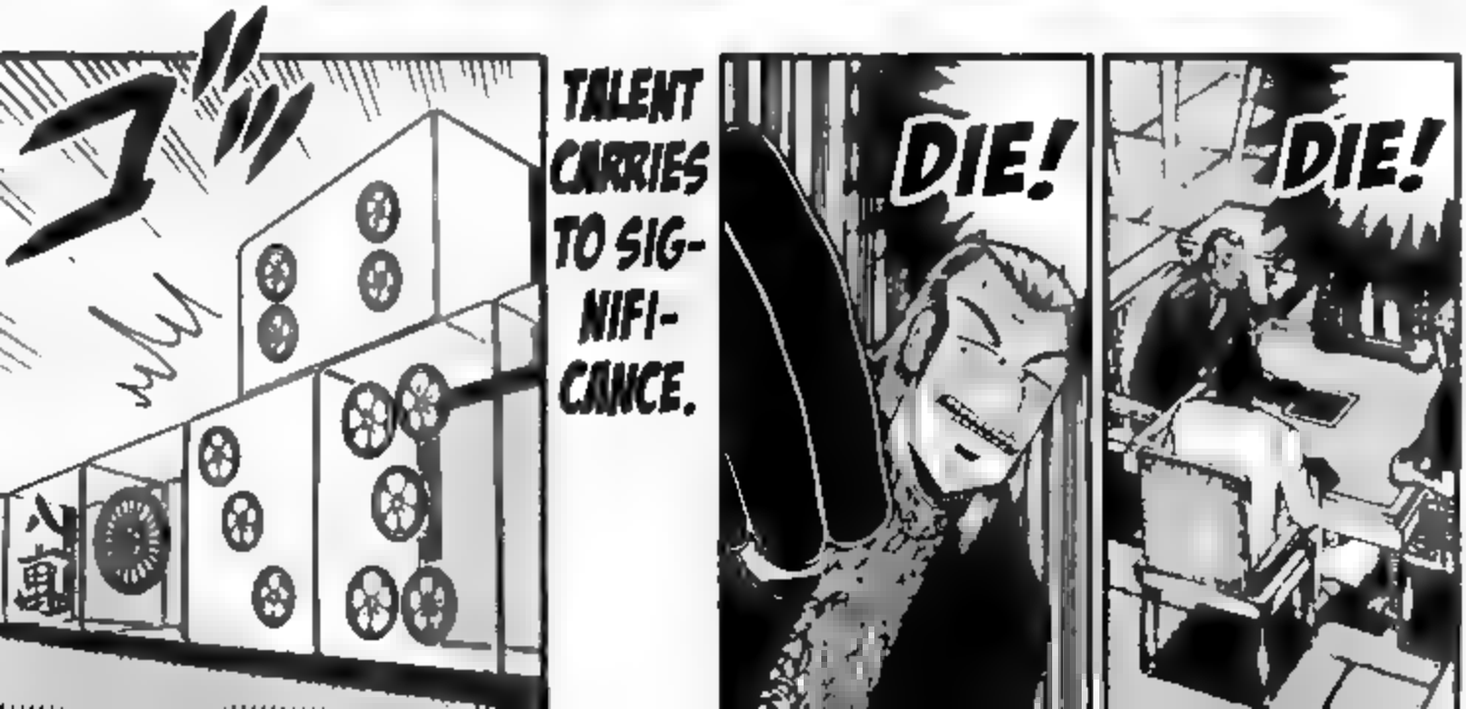
I COULD HAVE MADE IT BACK TO TENPAI
ALL HE WOULD DO IS MAKE A FOOL OF HIMSELF.
IF HE HADN'T DRAWN THE 5- OR 8-PIN THERE
BUT EVEN SO...


ORDINARILY, THINGS LIKE THAT
HE HAD TO HAVE KNOWN THAT
AND WOUND UP WINNING THE HAND, MYSELF.

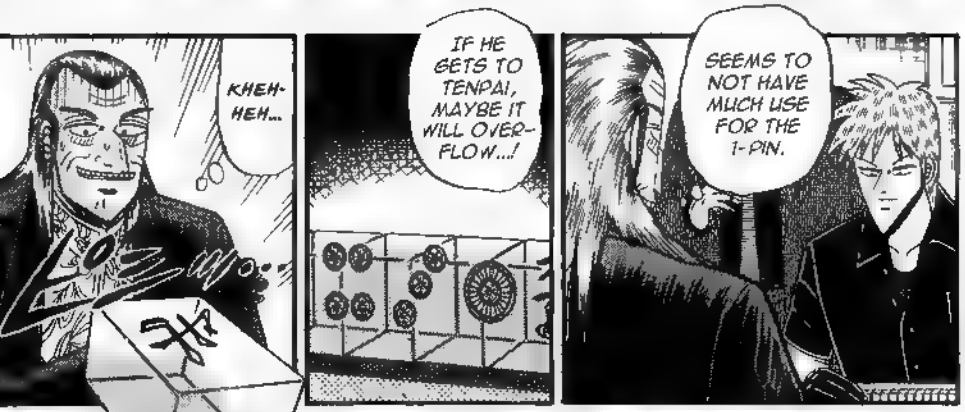
AND YET THIS MAN...
AT THE VERY LEAST, ORDINARY PEOPLE CANNOT DO THAT!
A GAME'S "ADVANTAGES" CAN'T BE OVER-LOOKED!
CANNOT BE WEIGHED BY ORDINARY SCALES
THIS MAN...
HE CLEARLY EXCEEDS ANY MEA-SUREMENTS YOU COULD TRY TO TAKE
VERY EASILY DID JUST THAT!
BUT IN REALITY, ALL THEY WANTED WAS TO SURVIVE.
PUT ON A FACADE OF DEFIANCE ON THE SURFACE...
ALL THE MEN I'VE KILLED TO NOW...
AT THE VERY LEAST...
BUT... EVEN SO.
HE'S CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM THE LIKES OF THEM!

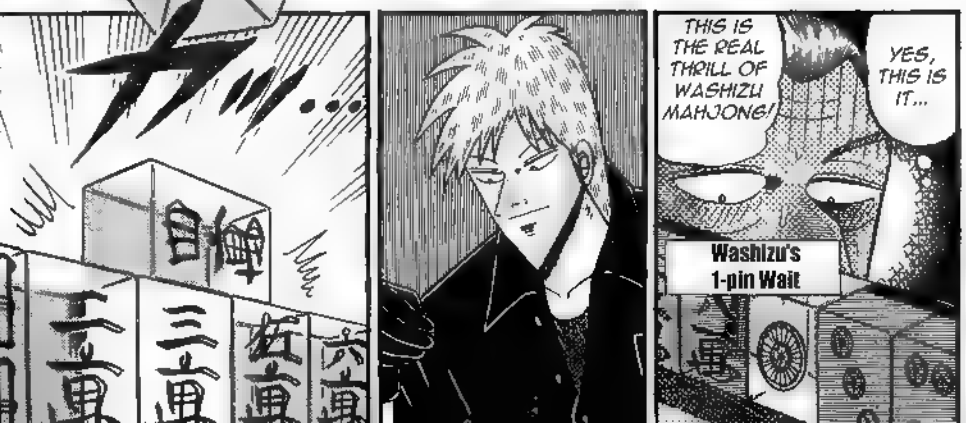
TO LOSE DESPITE ALL THAT IS PART OF MAHJONG!

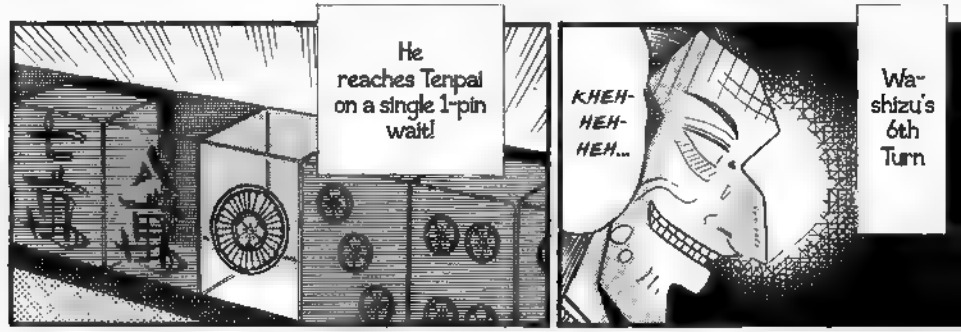
DIE!
KHEH-HEH...

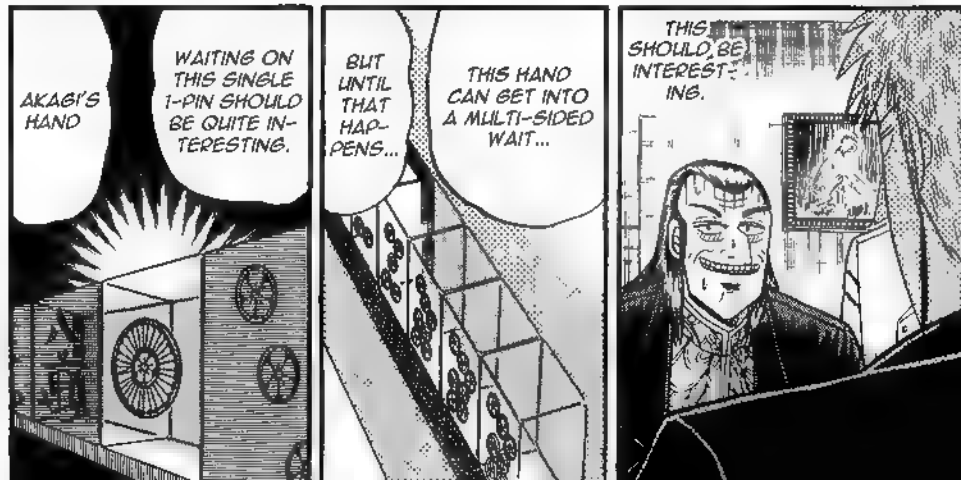

ゴ
TALENT CARRIES TO SIG-NIFI-CANCE.
DIE!
DIE!

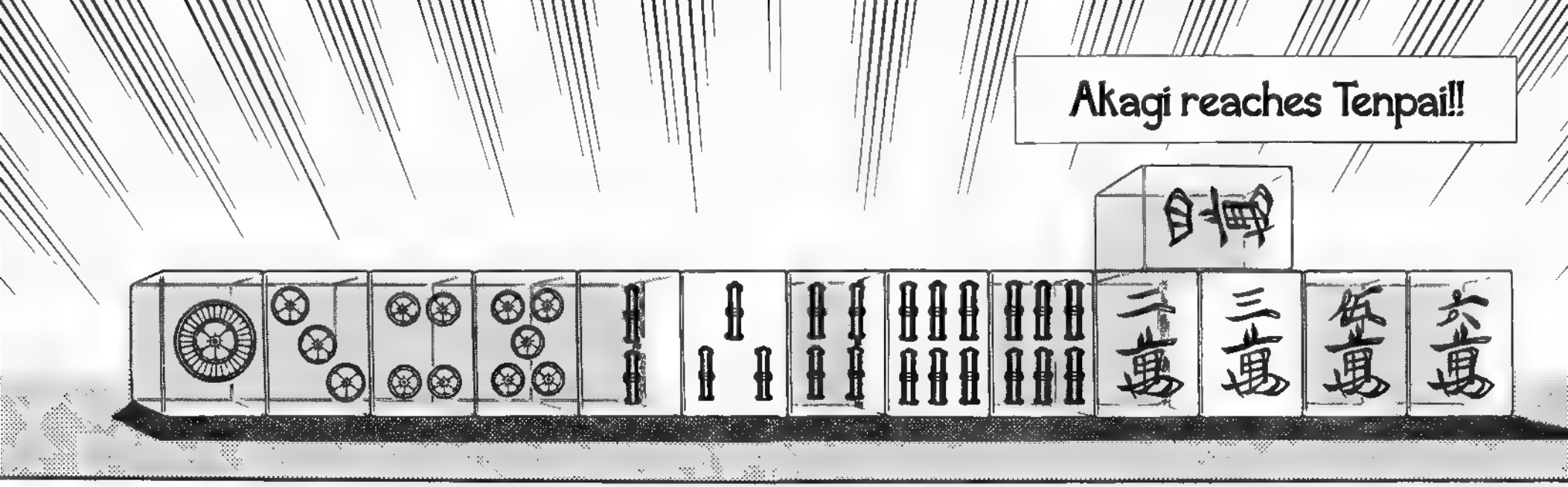
IN MAHJONG, YOU WILL DIE WHEN YOUR TIME COMES...!!

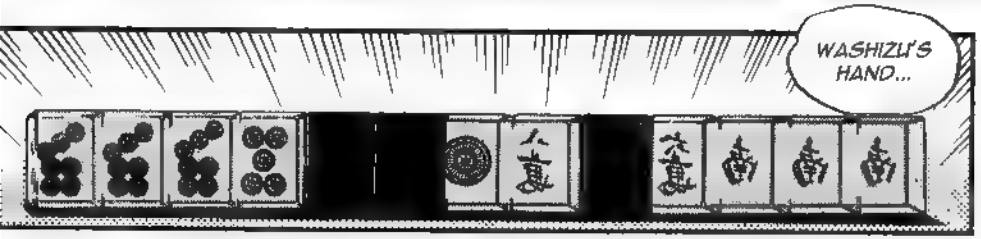

KHEH-HEH...
IF HE GETS TO TENPAI, MAYBE IT WILL OVER-FLOW...!
SEEMS TO NOT HAVE MUCH USE FOR THE 1-PIN.

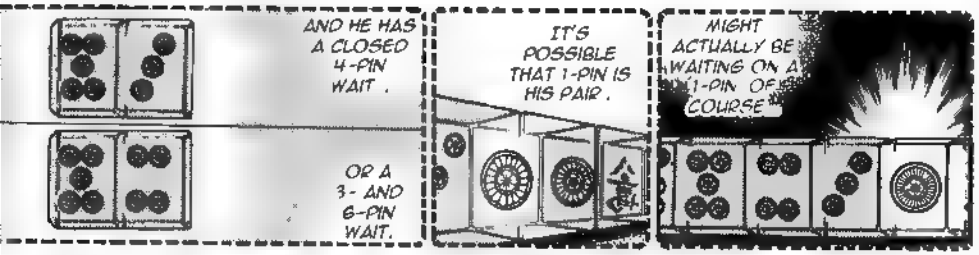

THIS IS THE REAL THRILL OF WASHIZU MAHJONG!
YES, THIS IS IT...
Washizu's 1-pin Wait


He reaches Tenpai on a single 1-pin wait!
KHEH-HEH-HEH...
Wa-shizu's 6th Turn


AKAGI'S HAND
WAITING ON THIS SINGLE 1-PIN SHOULD BE QUITE IN-TERESTING.
BUT UNTIL THAT HAP-PENS...
THIS HAND CAN GET INTO A MULTI-SIDED WAIT...
THIS SHOULD BE INTEREST-ING.


Akagi reaches Tenpai!!


WASHIZU'S HAND...


AND HE HAS A CLOSED 4-PIN WAIT.
OR A 3- AND 6-PIN WAIT.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT 1-PIN IS HIS PAIR.
MIGHT ACTUALLY BE WAITING ON A 1-PIN OF COURSE

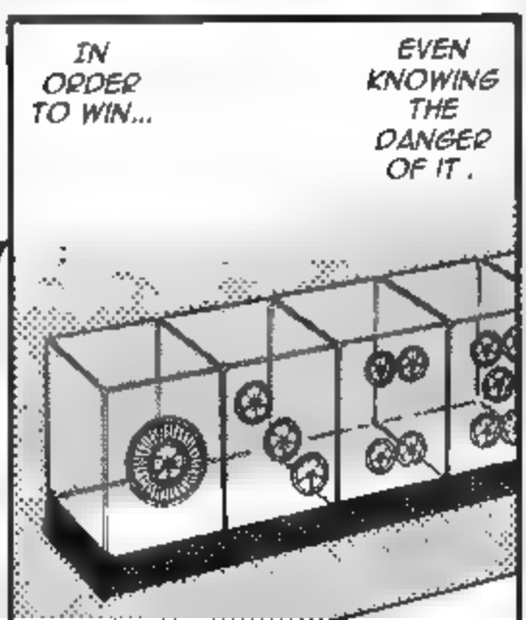
AND BESIDES,
JUST AS LIKELY!
THAT KIND OF TENPAI IS REALLY..

.....
He would have a 1-4-7 man wait!
By dealing the 1-pin...

BUT..
YOU CAN CEMENT YOUR LEAD EVEN MORE!
HE CAN DEAL IN, STRAIGHT AWAY!
YASU-OKA HAS A 4-MAN IN HIS HAND
IF THIS 1-PIN PASSES.
WHAT WILL YOU DO?

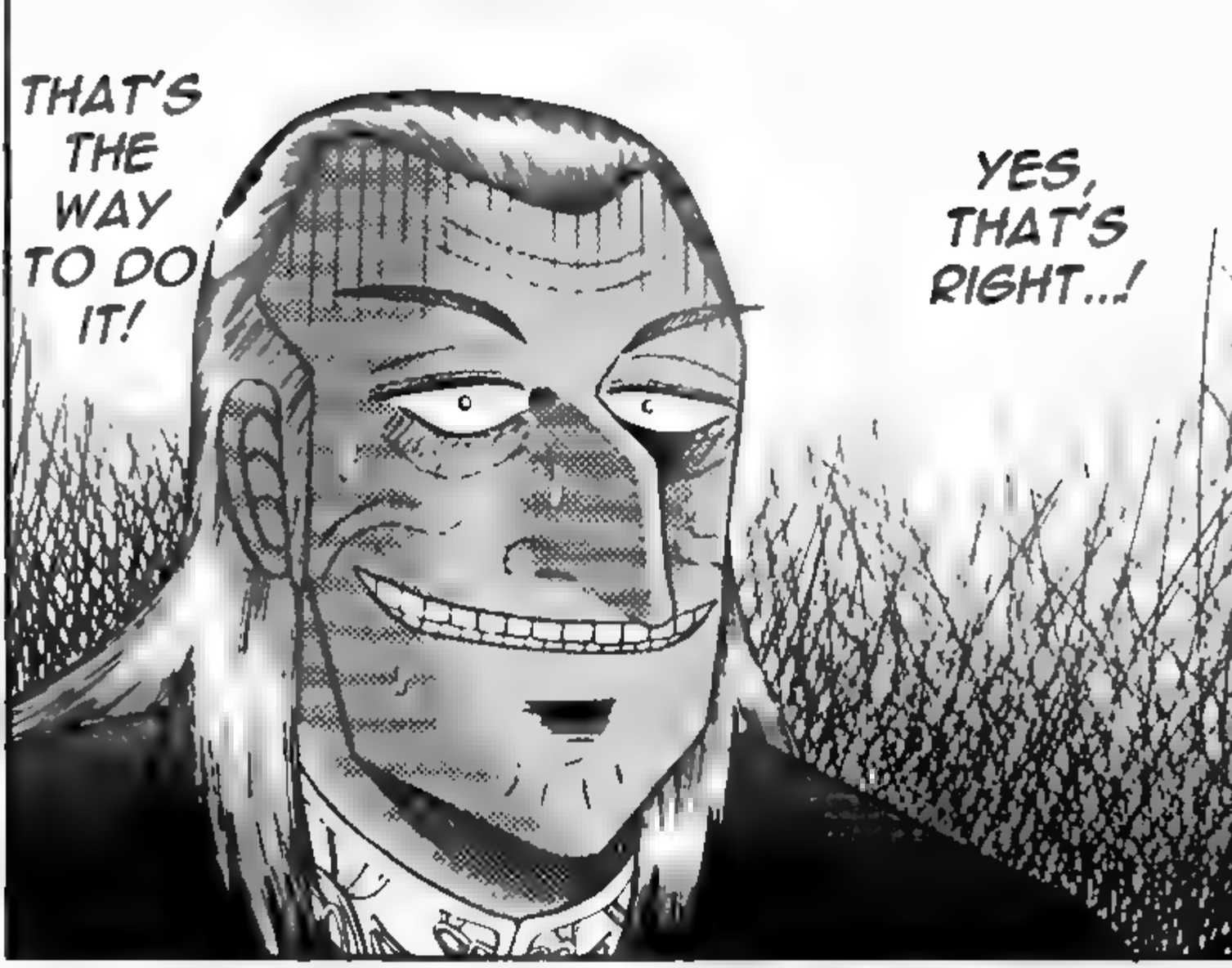
WILL YOU TAKE THE GAM-BLE...?

WILL YOU TAKE THE RISK?!



AH...!

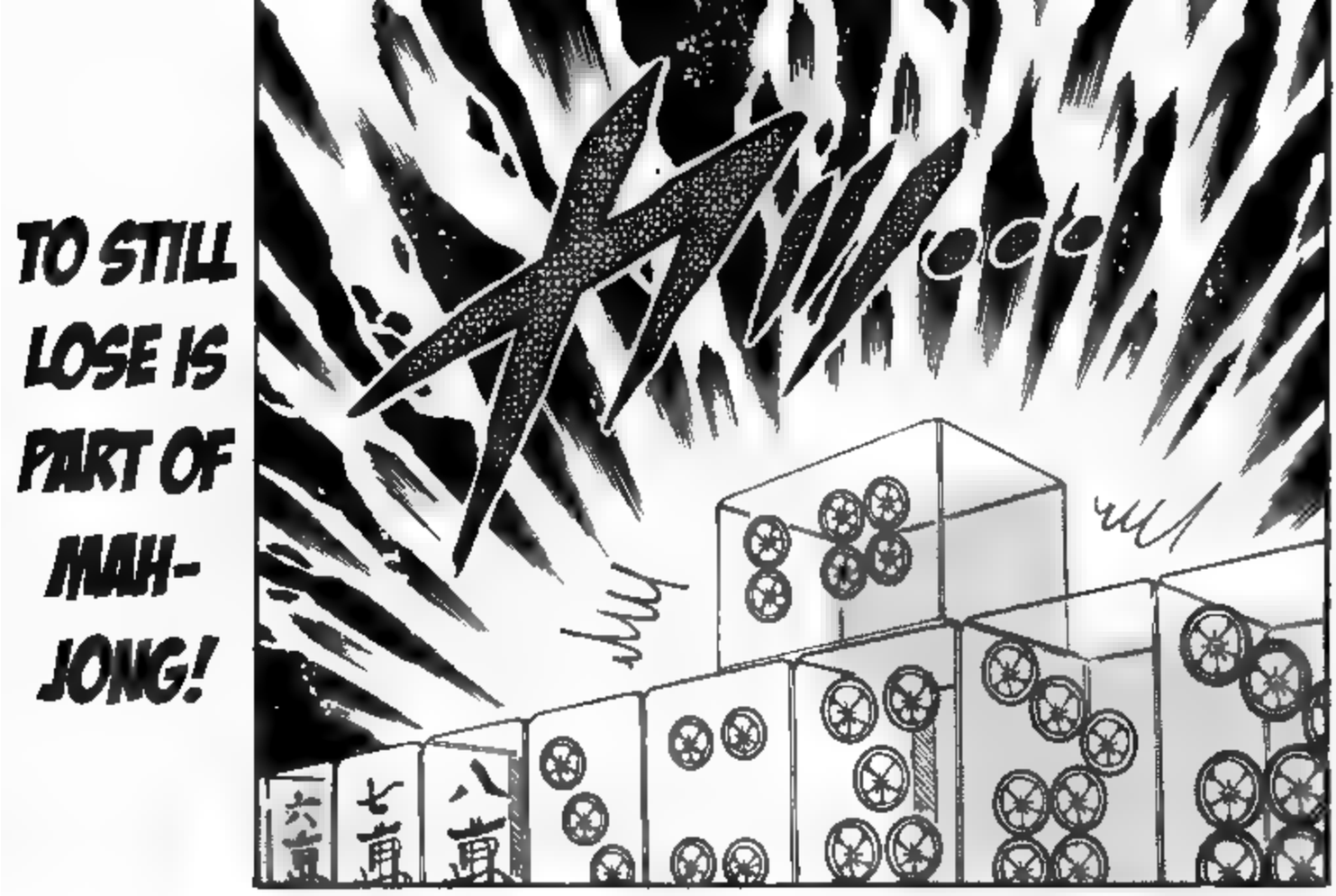
KHEH-HEH-HEH...!
.....
.....
HE EVADED THE RISK, HERE!!
HE WENT AROUND IT...!!


THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT...!

YOU CAN FIGURE OUT SOMETHING THIS OR...
OUT
THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN YOU ARE!

EVEN AFTER FIGURING SOMETHING OUT...
BE SURE TO REMEMBER THIS!
BUT...

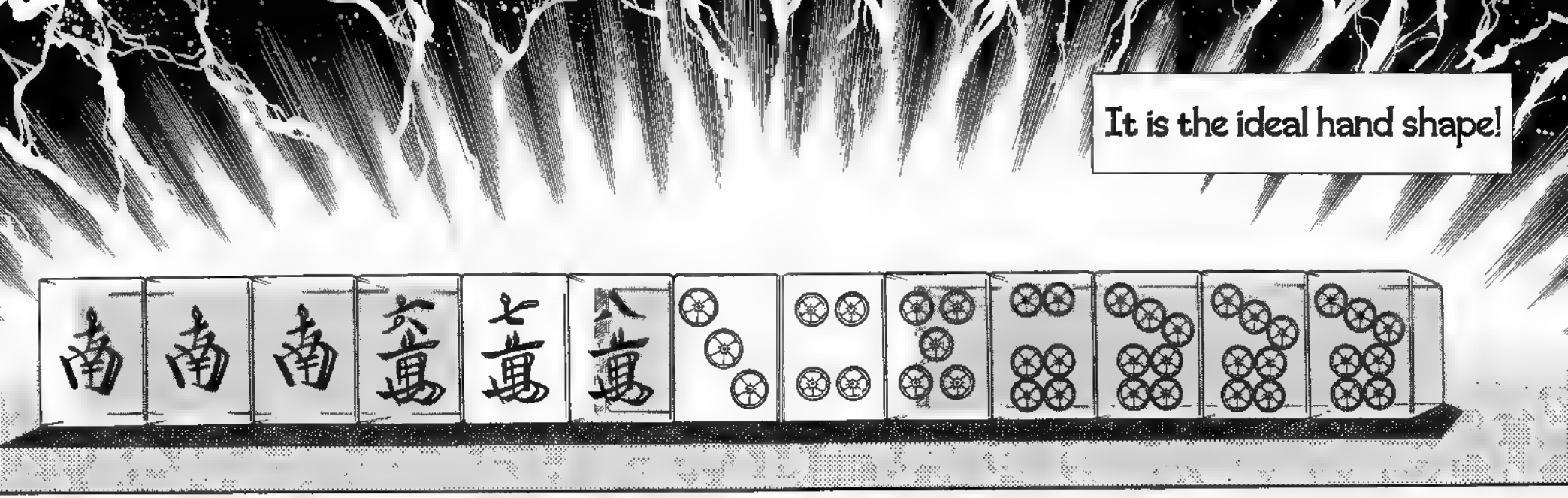
TO STILL LOSE IS PART OF MAH-JONG!



He pulls in the best tile, the 6-pin...

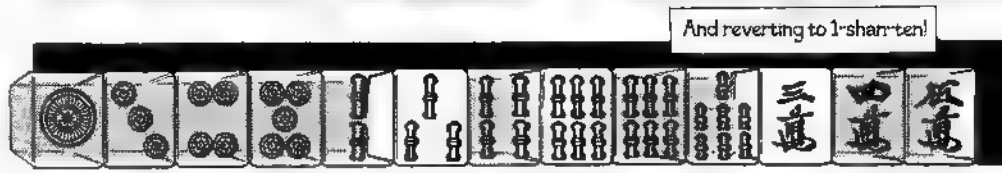
Washizu changes his wait.

And calls Riichi on a multi-sided wait.


It is the ideal hand shape!...

THANKS TO YOUR LITTLE TRICKS, YOU MANAGED...
YOUR CAPACITY AMOUNTS TO NOTHING!
COMPARED TO ME...
IT'S INEVITABLE.
YOU WILL STILL LOSE IN MAHJONG!
EVEN WHILE PLAYING THE PERFECT GAME...

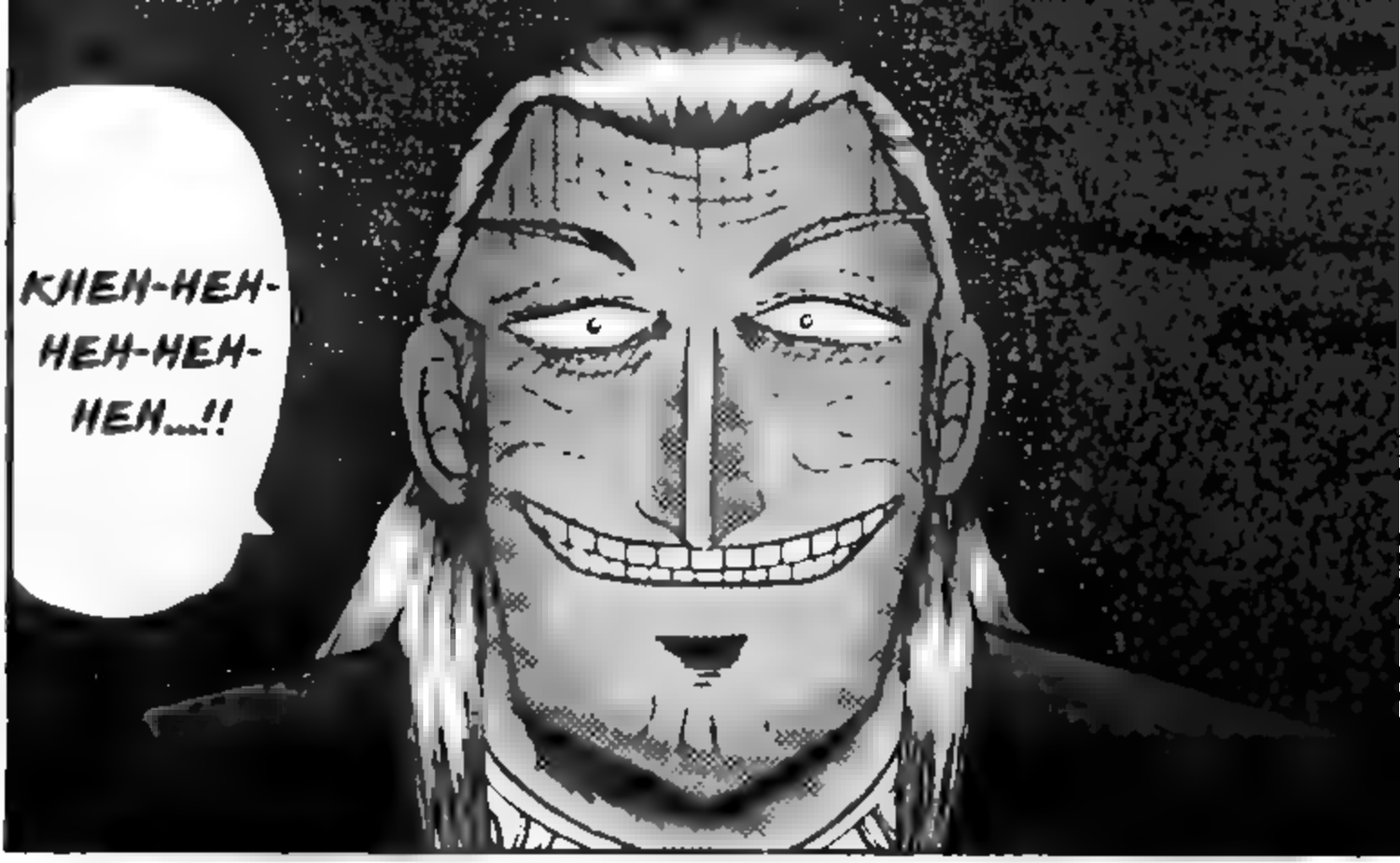
Breaking up Tenpai...
Akagi went around Washizu's hand without playing his 1-pin...
And at the same time...
GNGH...
.....
A 2-5-8 pin and 3-6 pin wait.


And reverting to 1-shan-ten!

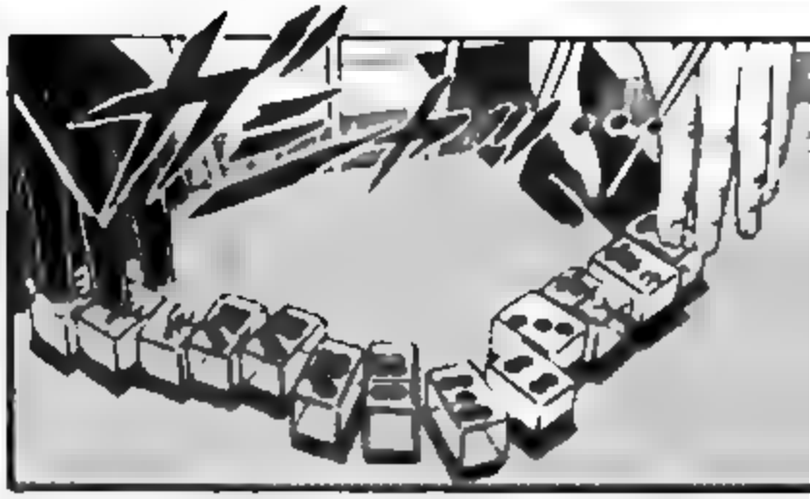
I CAN LIMIT YOUR MOVEMENTS!
BY JUST PLAYING NORMALLY
I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY OF THAT
BUT...
TO REACH THE OUTER BOUNDS OF MY DOMAIN!

EVEN WITH GOOD INSTINCT AND GUTS
YOU SEE?
KHEH-HEH-HEH...
.....

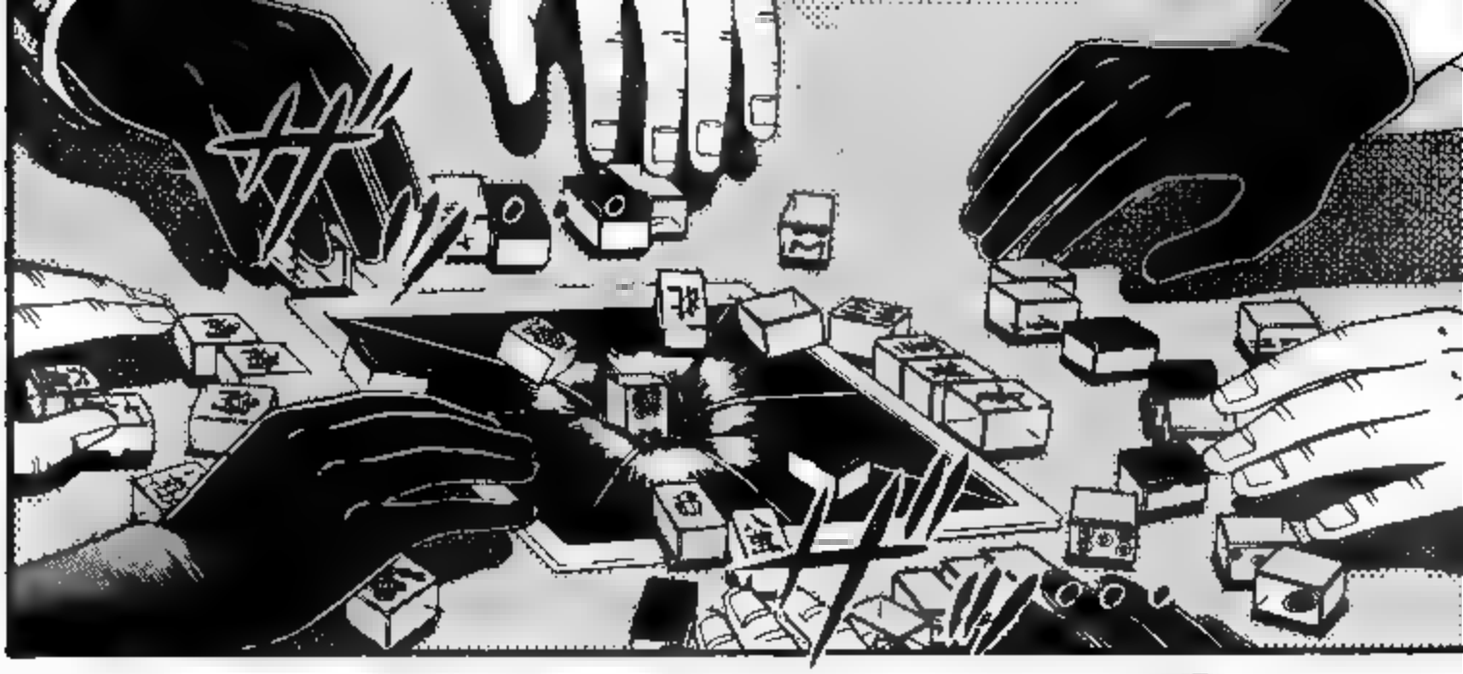
I'VE MADE A COMEBACK!
IT'S A MANGAN HAND.
WITH RIICHI, IPPATSU, MENZEN TSUMO, NAN, AND 1 DORA...
I DIDN'T GET ANY URA-DORA, BUT...
KHEH-HEH-HEH...
KHEH-HEH-HEH...
I CAN DRAW MY WIN-NING TILE!


KHEH-HEH-
HEH-HEH-
HEH...!!

NOW!... JUST ONE MORE ROUND LEFT!


KE-KON!!

I'VE CAUGHT UP TO YOU NOW, AKAGI!


ドサッ

ゴトッ…
ゴトッ…
ゴトッ…
チャッ…
ドサッ

……
ゴトッ…

CHAPTER 77: QUELLING
第77話 抑制

HE'S GOT JUST ONE MORE ROUND TO CAUSE AN UPSET!

Washizu: 41,400 Points, -7.6 Million Yen

Totals at the end of the 1st Session's South 3rd Round
Akagi: 34,600 Points, -600 ccs

In the South 3rd Round...

HE'S BETTING HIS LIFE ON THIS ONE ROUND!

HIS DEATH WOULD BE CERTAIN!

AND THAT WOULD MEAN...

AND IF HE LOSES, THERE WILL BE OVER A 50,000-POINT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIM AND WASHIZU THANKS TO THE FIRST-PLACE OKA BONUS

BY THE END OF THE SOUTH 4TH ROUND, HE'LL DEFINITELY LOSE!

IF AKAGI CAN'T COMPLETE A HAND

T/N: The Oka bonus is a 20,000-point bonus given to first place taken from the other three players. Each player starts with 25,000 points and must give back 30,000 at the end. That makes for a loss of 5,000 points per player, which is all given to first place.

This makes the amount of blood he has lost to this point...

Therefore, before this round begins, Akagi must have 200 ccs taken from him.

He took 2000 points from Akagi.

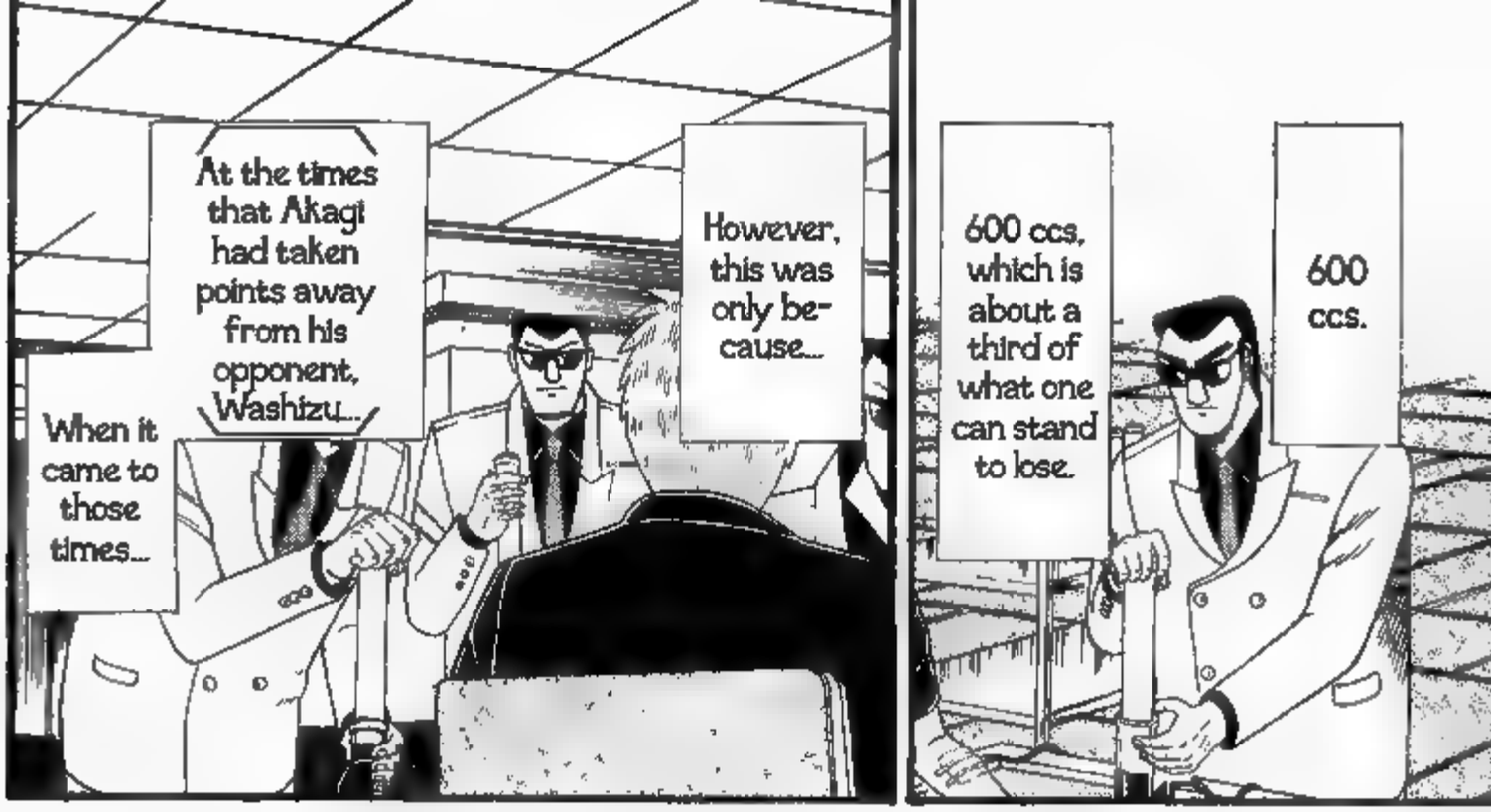
Washizu had made a Mangan Tsumo, and so...

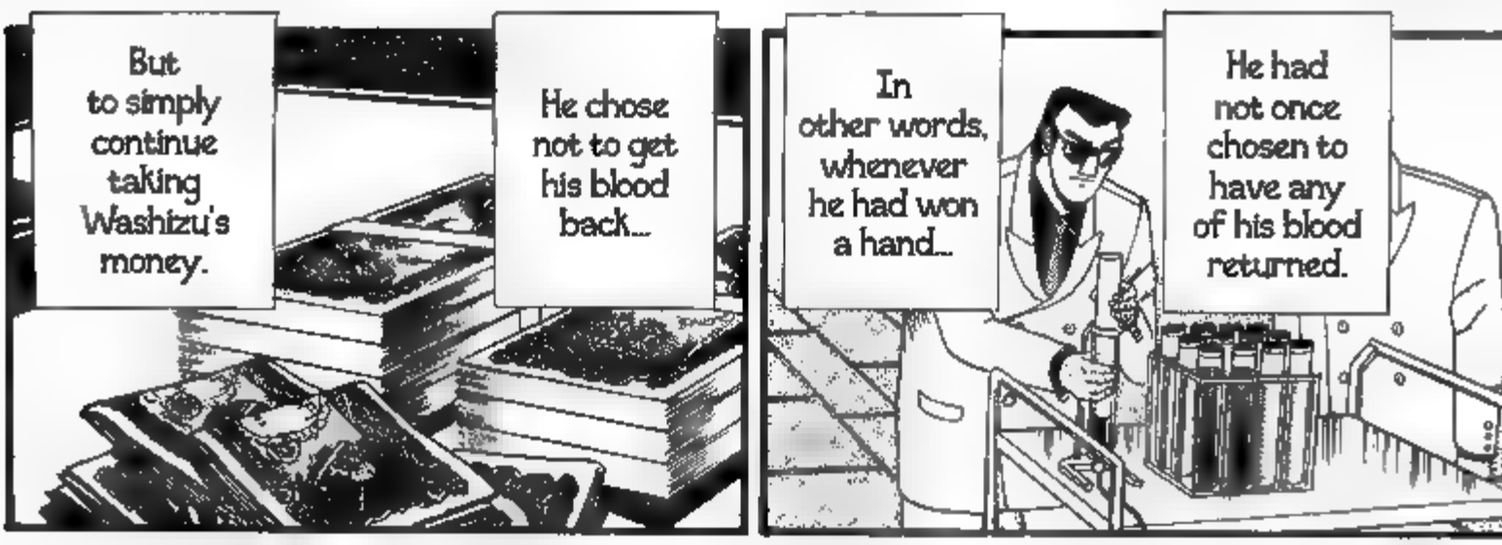
HE'D DIE IMMEDIATELY IF THAT HAD BEEN!

THERE'D BE NO CONTEST

.....

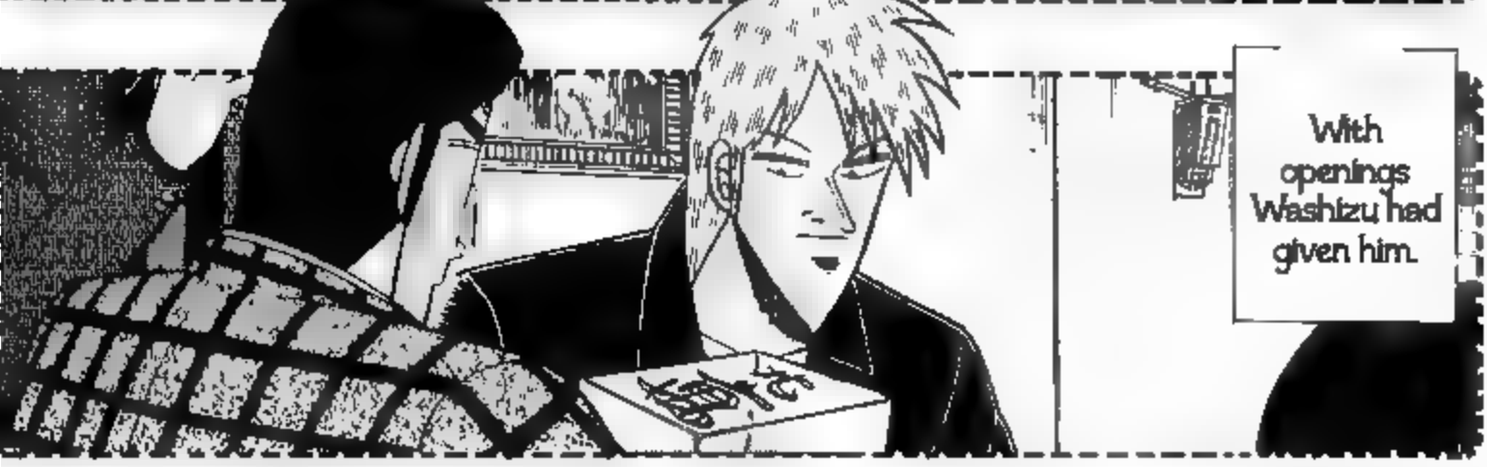
HE'D LOSE OVER 5000 CCS OF BLOOD, JUST LIKE THAT!

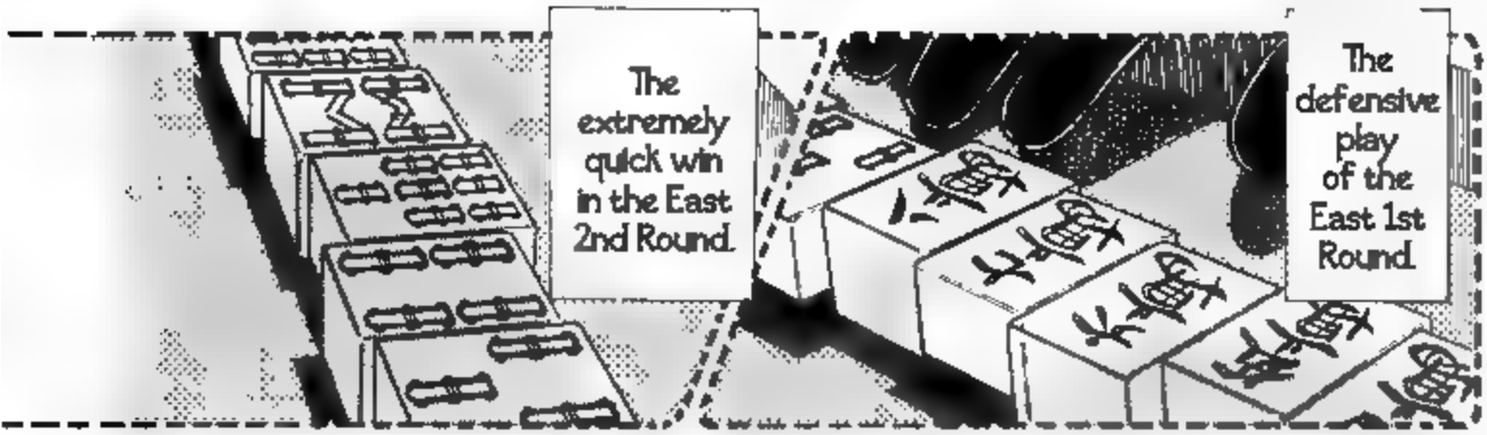

When it came to those times...
At the times that Akagi had taken points away from his opponent, Washizu...
However, this was only be-cause...
600 ccs.
600 ccs, which is about a third of what one can stand to lose.

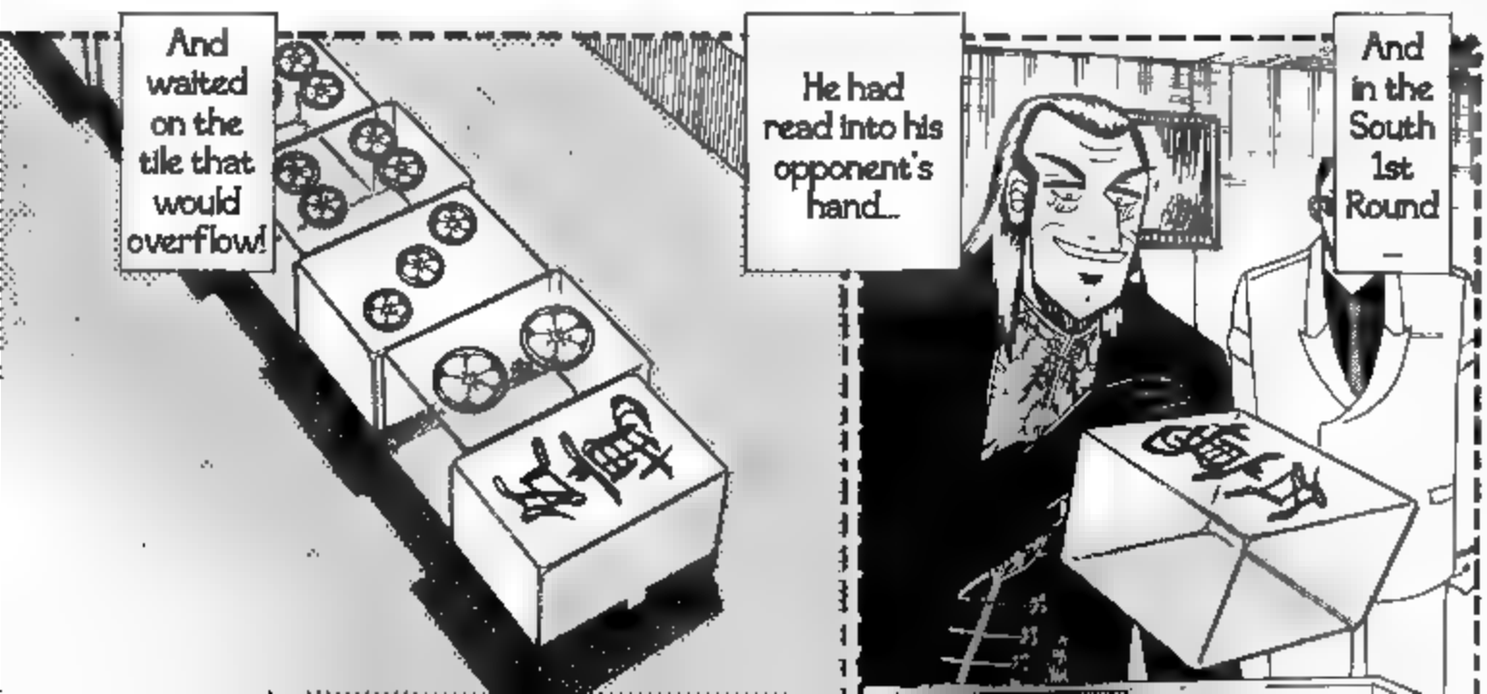

But to simply continue taking Washizu's money.
He chose not to get his blood back...
In other words, whenever he had won a hand...
He had not once chosen to have any of his blood returned.

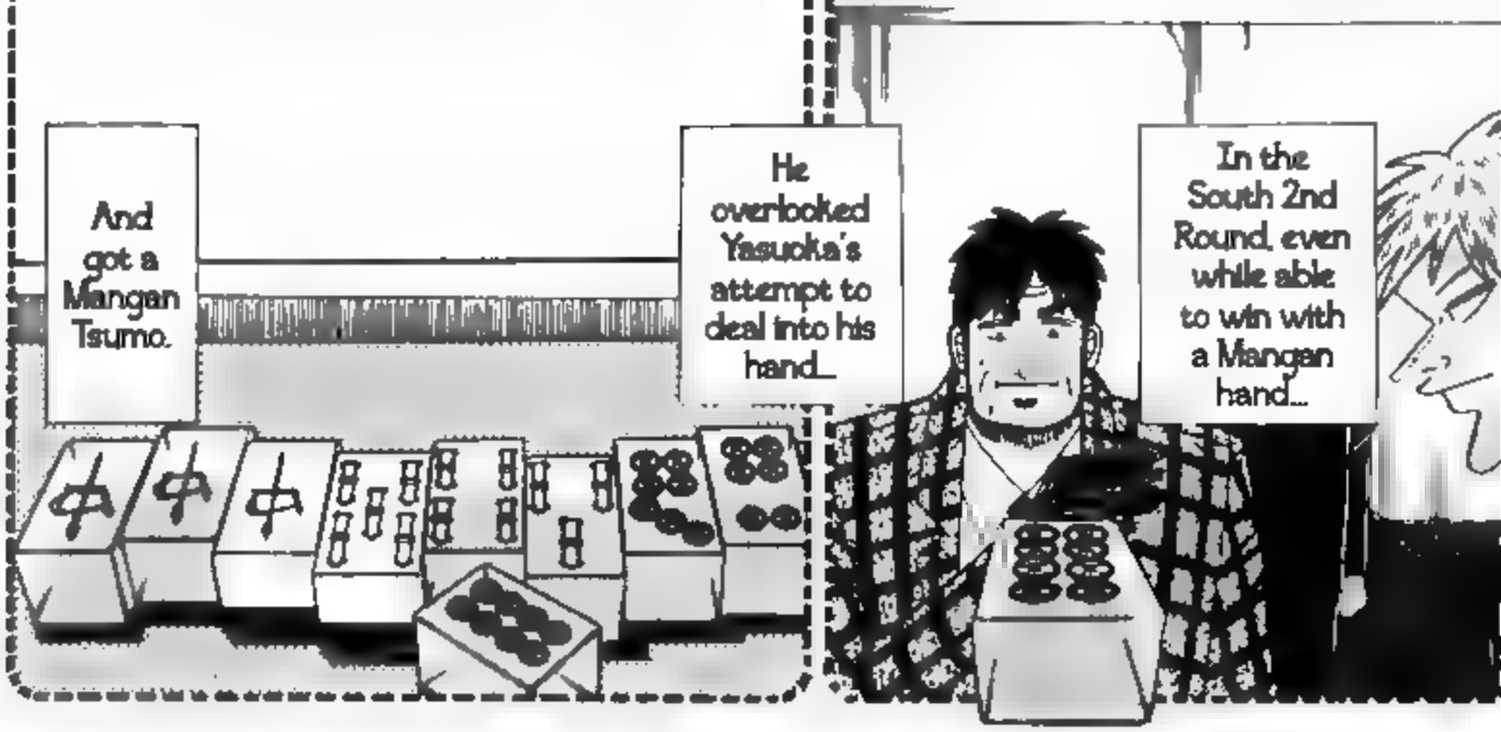
That he had managed to avoid dealing in to any of Washizu's hands.
Only be-cause of the fact...
How-ever, that might be...
He had made it through to the South 3rd Round that way.
Not dealt into Washizu's hands even once.
Akagi had, to this point...

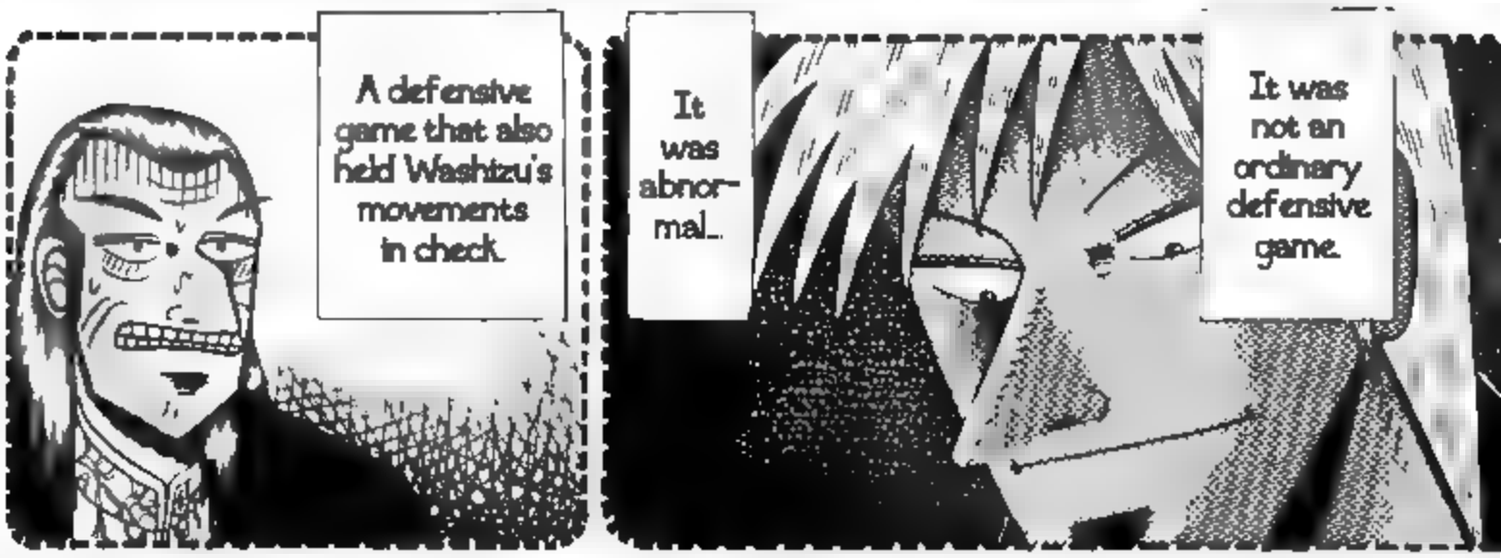
From the beginning...
He had been carefully avoiding Washizu's attacks.
He had snuck wins through...

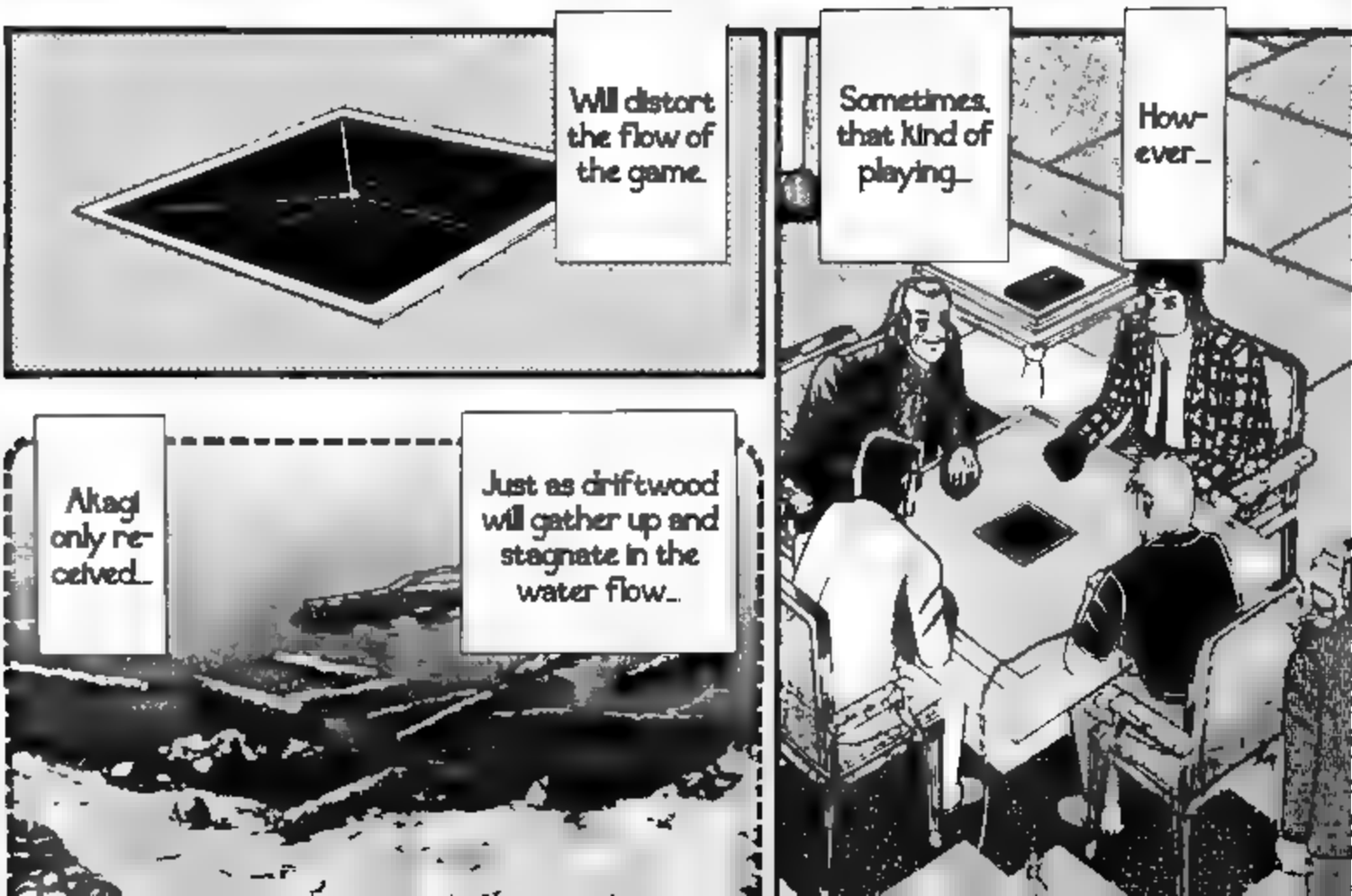

With openings Washizu had given him.

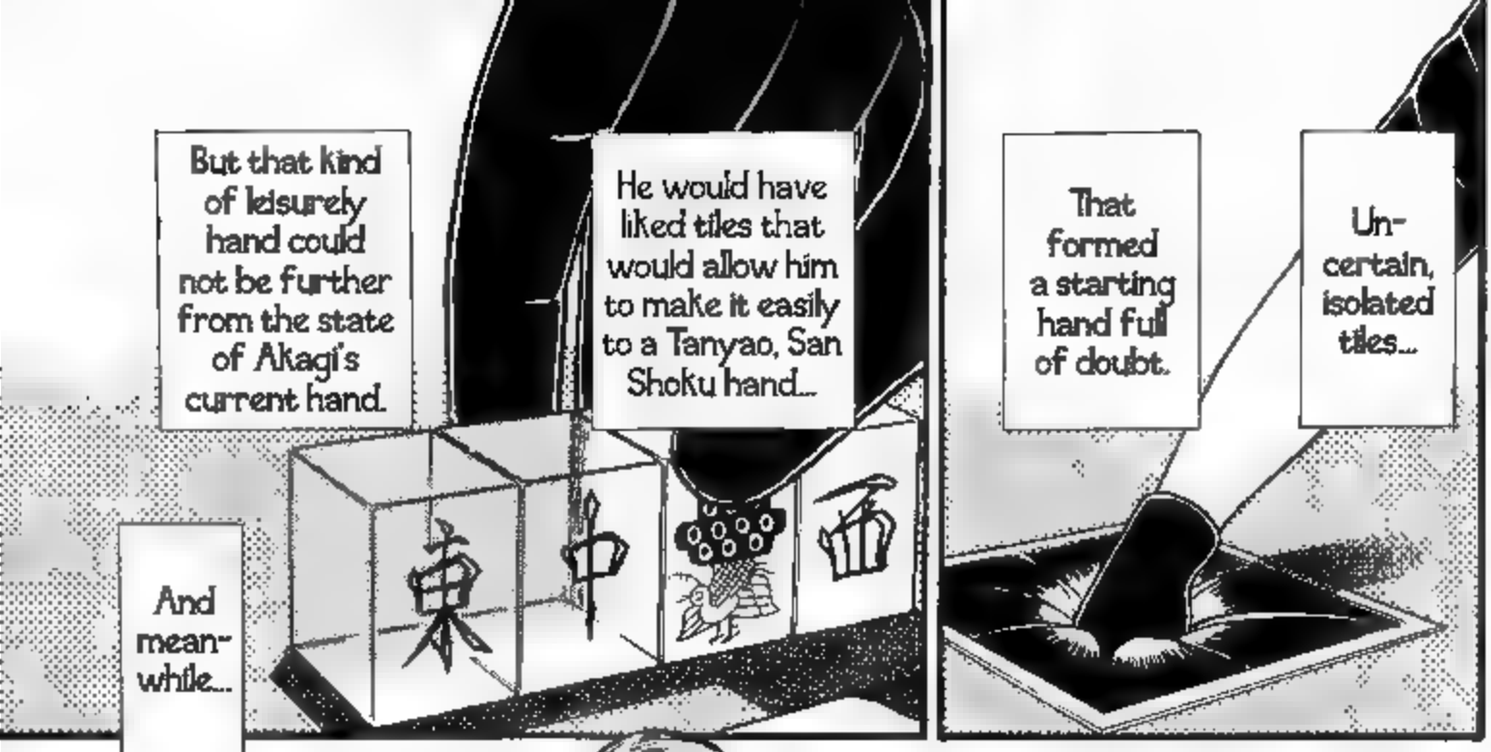

The defensive play of the East 1st Round
The extremely quick win in the East 2nd Round


And in the South 1st Round...
He had read into his opponent's hand...
And waited on the tile that would overflow!


And got a Mangan Tsumo.
He overlooked Yasuoka's attempt to deal into his hand...
In the South 2nd Round, even while able to win with a Mangan hand...

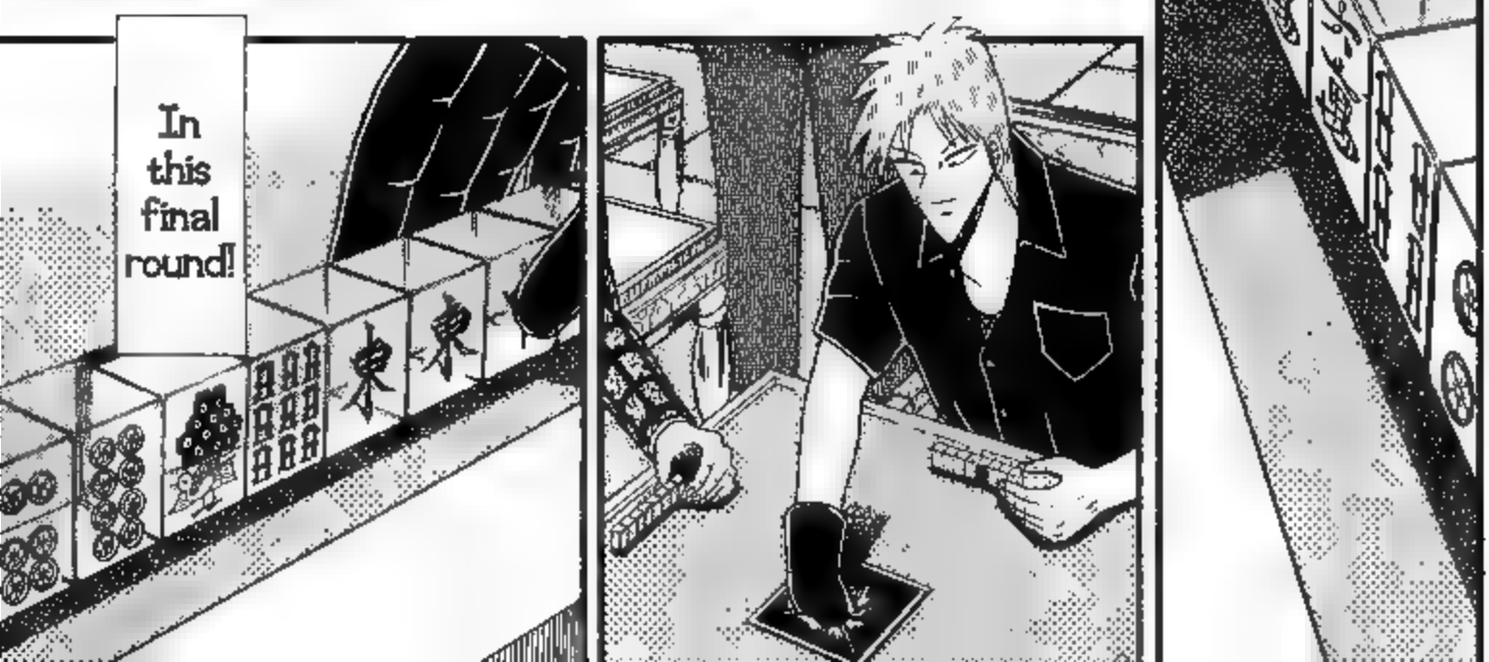

A defensive game that also held Washizu's movements in check.
It was abnormal...
It was not an ordinary defensive game.

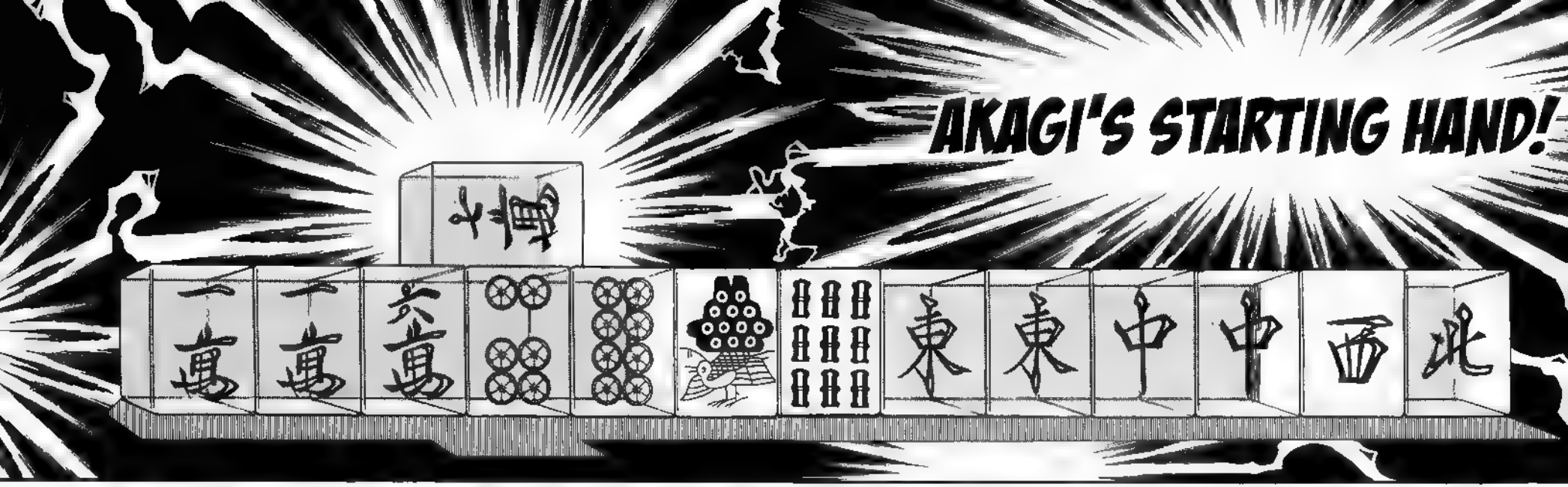

Will distort the flow of the game.
Sometimes, that kind of playing...
However...
Akagi only received...
Just as driftwood will gather up and stagnate in the water flow...

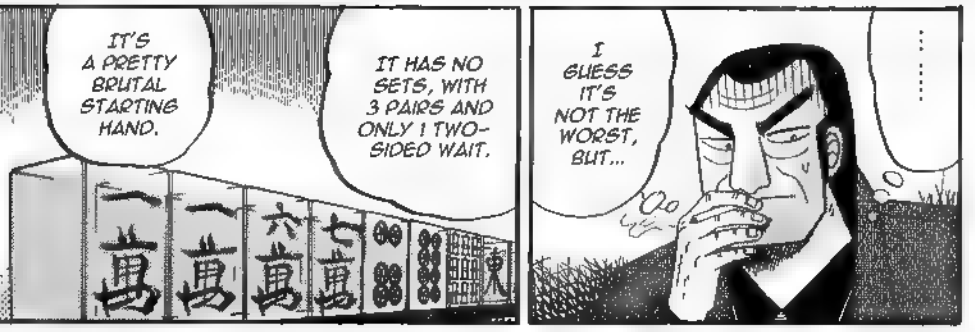

But that kind of leisurely hand could not be further from the state of Akagi's current hand.
He would have liked tiles that would allow him to make it easily to a Tanyao, San Shoku hand...
That formed a starting hand full of doubt.
Un-certain, isolated tiles...
And mean-while...

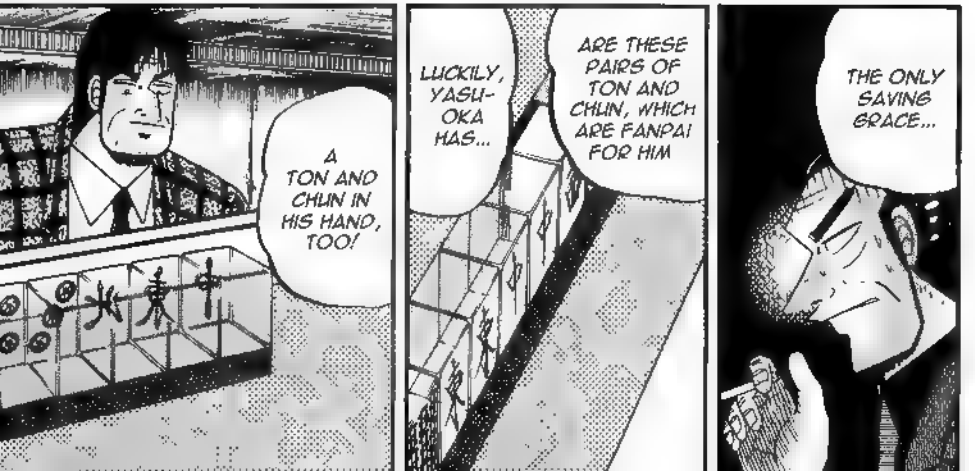
A starting hand that was simple to organize...
His draws were carefree as could be.
Washizu's received an easy hand!

He would find himself swimming upstream...
That Akagi was struggling!
It was not only in terms of points...


In this final round!


AKAGI'S STARTING HAND!

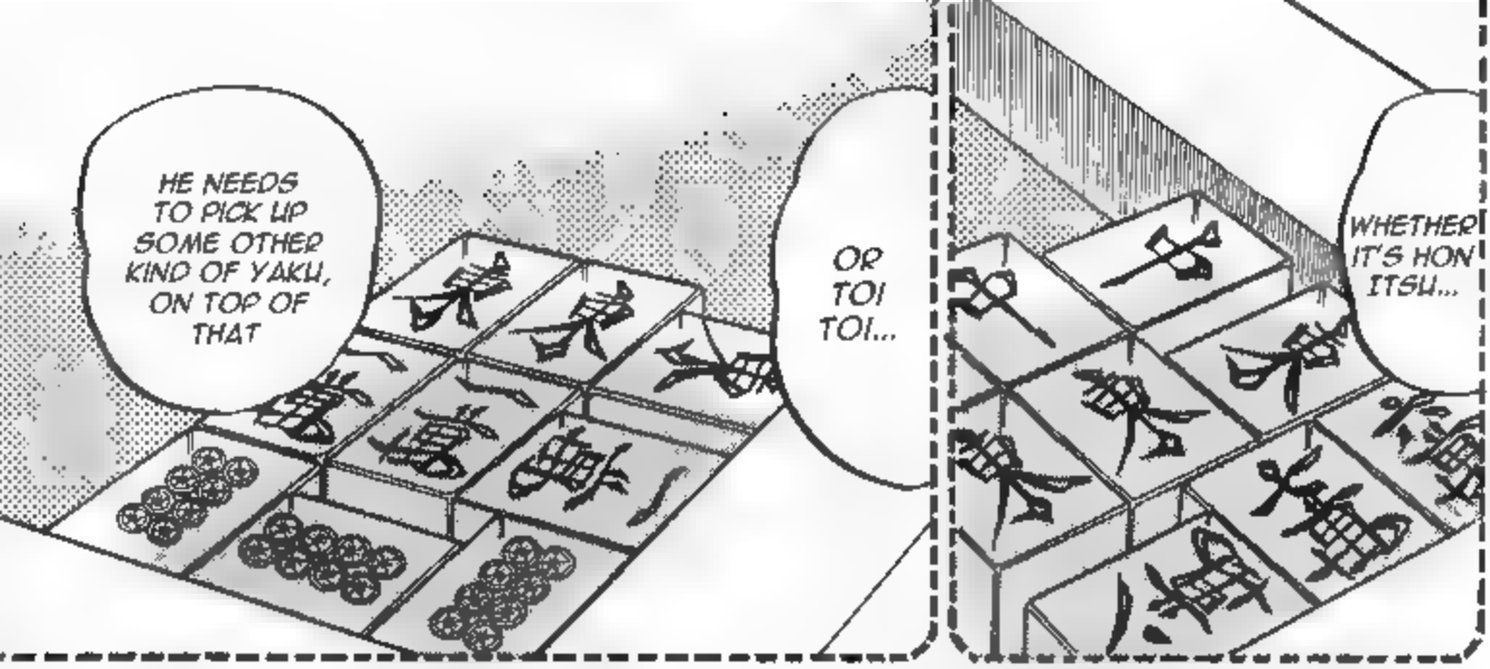

IT'S A PRETTY BRUTAL STARTING HAND.
IT HAS NO SETS, WITH 3 PAIRS AND ONLY 1 TWO-SIDED WAIT.
I GUESS IT'S NOT THE WORST, BUT...
.....


A TON AND CHUN IN HIS HAND, TOO!
LUCKILY, YASU-OKA HAS...
ARE THESE PAIRS OF TON AND CHUN, WHICH ARE FANPAI FOR HIM
THE ONLY SAVING GRACE...

With this starting hand!
He would have to fight with his life to overcome the current points difference...

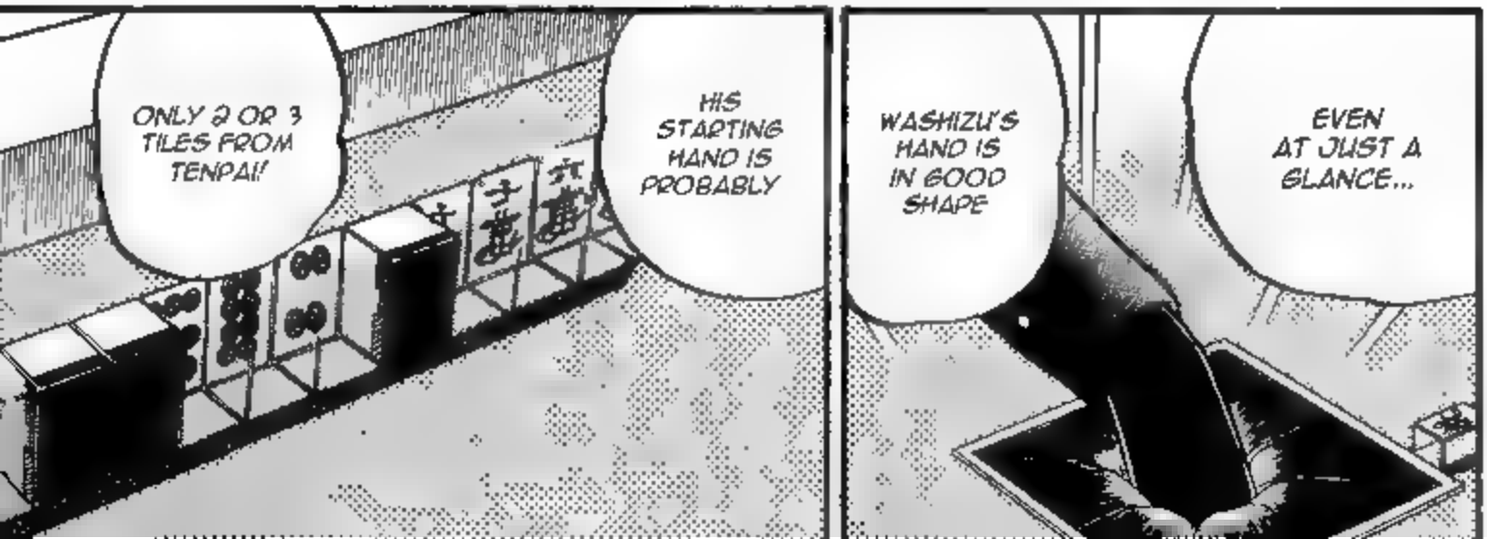
.....

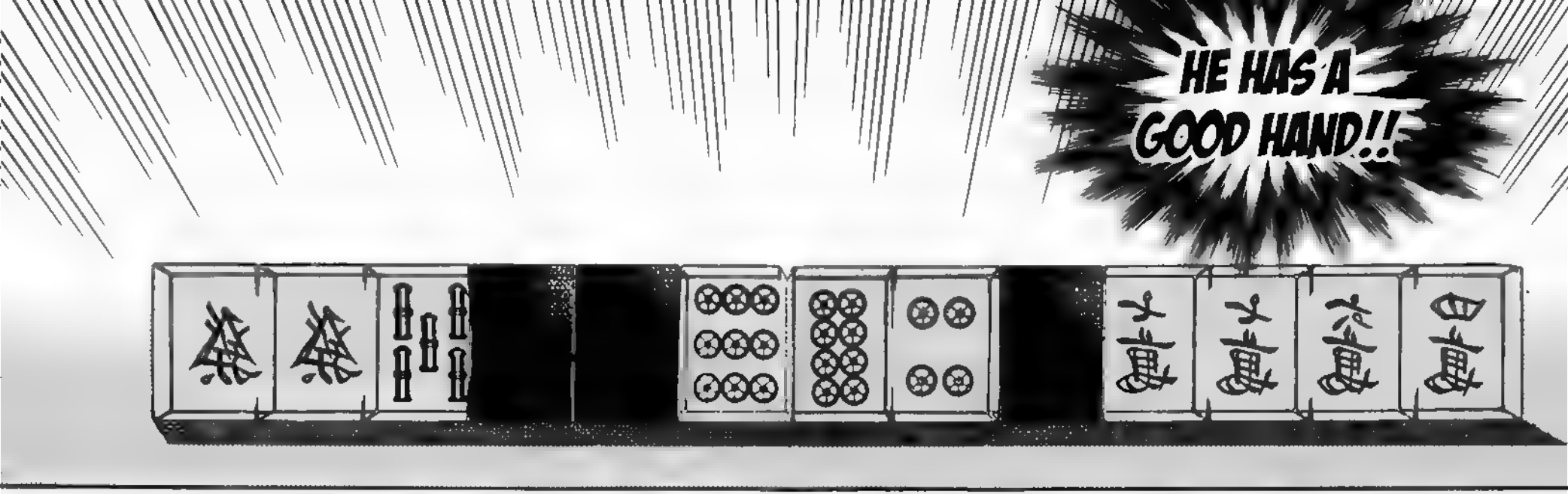
BUT STILL
AND A YAKU WORKED INTO THIS HAND
SO REALLY, IT'S LIKE HE ALREADY HAS TWO SETS..
HE CAN HAVE YASUOKA PLAY THEM, AND HE CAN CALL ON THEM
SO WHENEVER HE WANTS TO DO IT...
EVEN CONSIDERING THAT HE'S THE DEALER, THAT WILL ONLY BE WORTH UP TO 3900 OR 4800 POINTS!
IF HIS ONLY YAKU ARE TON AND CHUN...
THERE'S 6800 POINTS BETWEEN HIM AND WASHIZU RIGHT NOW.
WITH THAT SAID.
THESE TRANSP-ARENT TILES SHOULD MAKE DIRECT HITS PRETTY RARE.
THAT'S UN-LIKELY..
HE'D HAVE TO GET A DIRECT HIT TO MAKE AN UPSET WITH THAT, BUT...
IF HE GETS A TSUMO WITH THAT, IT WON'T OVERCOME THE POINT DIFFERENCE.
SO WITH THAT IN MIND
THAT WASHIZU WOULD MAKE A MISTAKE LIKE THAT IN THE LAST ROUND.
I KIND OF DOUBT...


HE NEEDS TO PICK UP SOME OTHER KIND OF YAKU, ON TOP OF THAT
OR TOI TOI...
WHETHER IT'S HON ITSU...

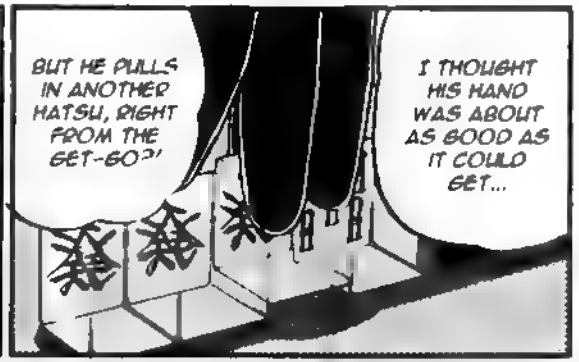
BUT NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES.
AND WORK IT INTO HIS HAND SOMEHOW
OR MAYBE HE COULD PULL IN THE DORA, 4-SOU

IT'LL ALL BE OVER!
IF HE LETS WASHIZU WIN HERE
HE CAN'T TAKE TOO MUCH TIME WHILE DOING IT

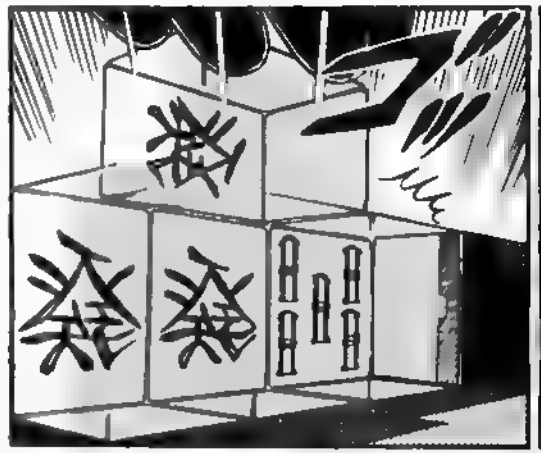

ONLY 2 OR 3 TILES FROM TENPAI!
HIS STARTING HAND IS PROBABLY
WASHIZU'S HAND IS IN GOOD SHAPE
EVEN AT JUST A GLANCE...

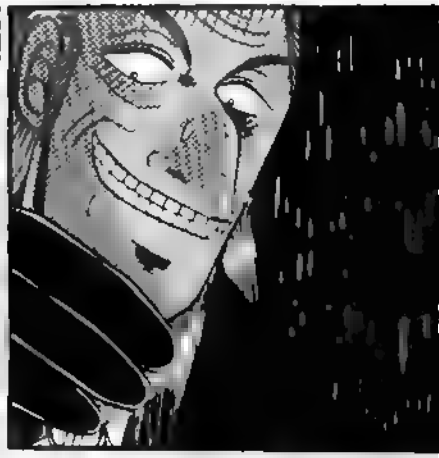

HE HAS A GOOD HAND!!

KHEH-HEH-HEH... EH-HEH...
SHIT...


BUT HE PULLS IN ANOTHER HATSU, RIGHT FROM THE GET-GO?!
I THOUGHT HIS HAND WAS ABOUT AS GOOD AS IT COULD GET...

NOW HE'S IN J-SHAN-TEN, AT LEAST!

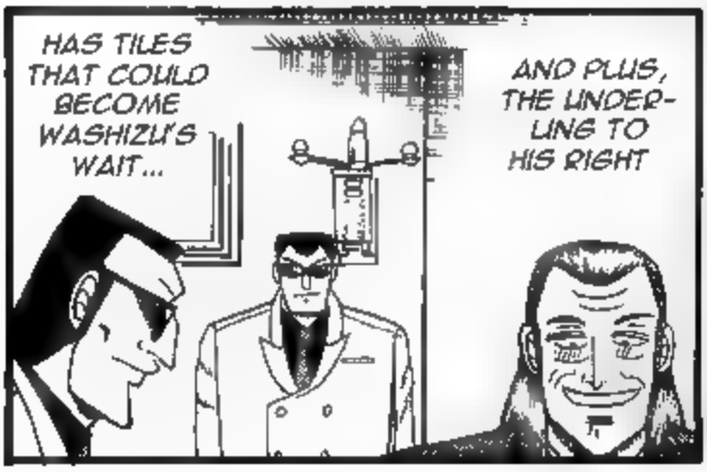




HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN...?!

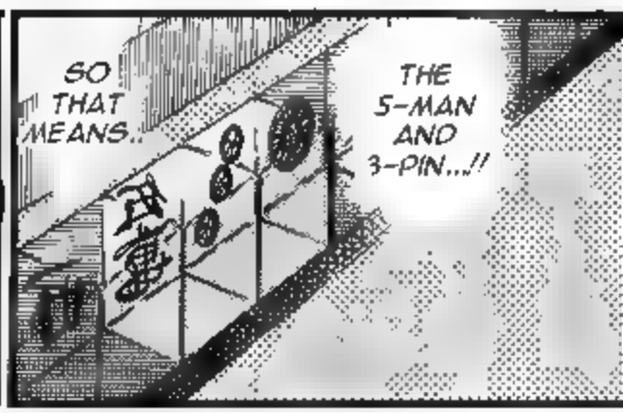
GGH

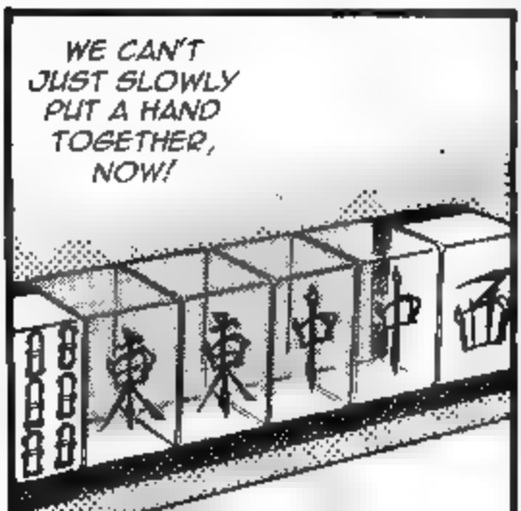
.....


HAS TILES THAT COULD BECOME WASHIZU'S WAIT...
AND PLUS, THE UNDER-LING TO HIS RIGHT

WE'VE GOT NO TIME!

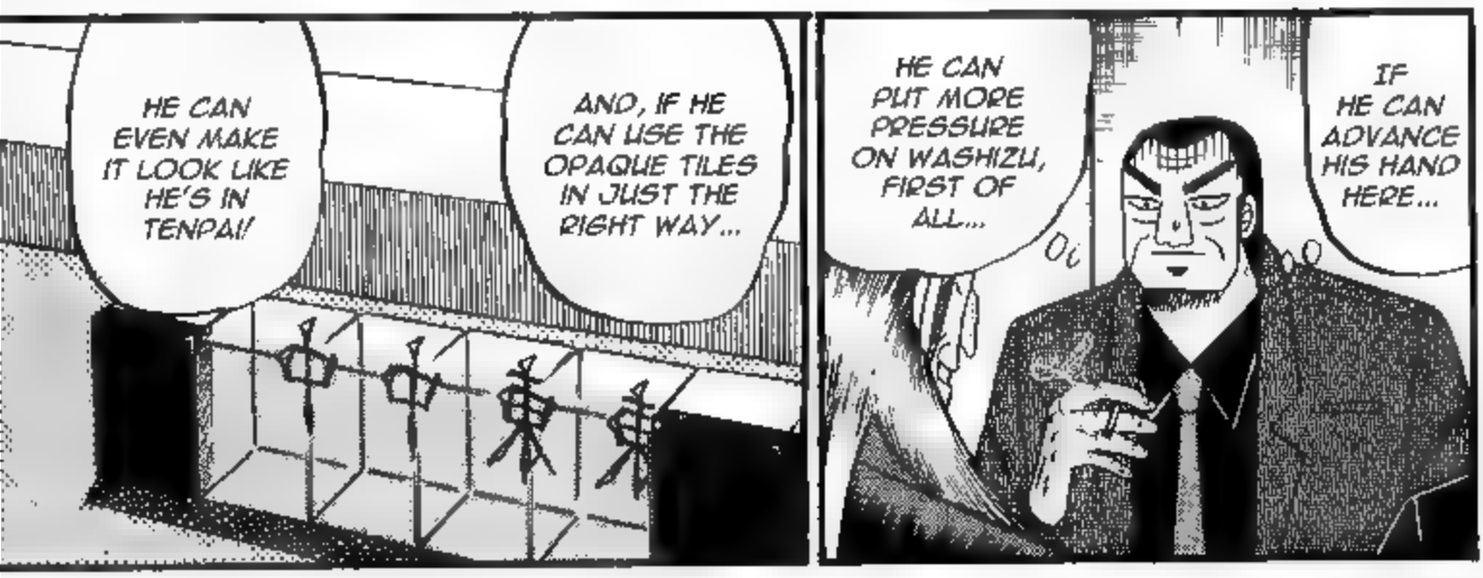
ONCE WASHIZU GETS TO TENPAI, HE'LL HAVE IT DEALT INTO, RIGHT AWAY!


SO THAT MEANS..
THE 5-MAN AND 3-PIN...!!

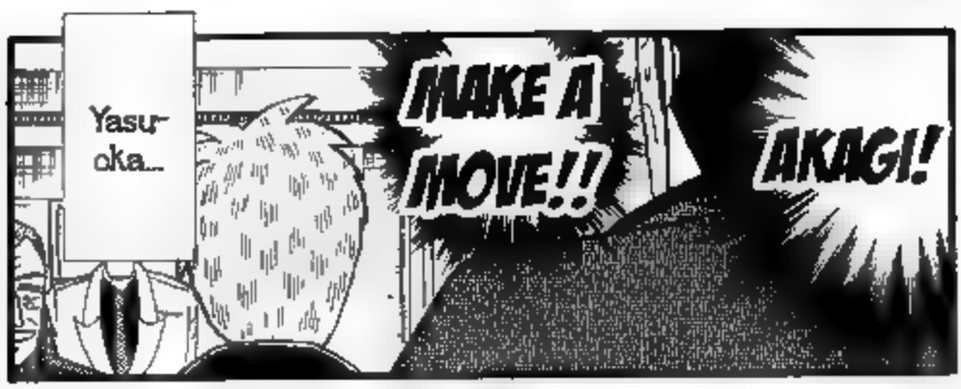

WE CAN'T JUST SLOWLY PUT A HAND TOGETHER, NOW!

WE'VE GOT TO MOVE!

RIGHT NOW, IF HE FALLS BEHIND, IT'LL BE FATAL!
THAT'S THE IDEAL SCE-NARIO, BUT...
MORE THAN ANY-THING ..
AND THEN HAVE YASUOKA DEAL IN WITH HIS TON AND CHUN.
IF POSSIBLE, AKAGI SHOULD MAKE IT TO 1-SHAN-TEN ON HIS OWN...


HE CAN EVEN MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HE'S IN TENPAI!
AND, IF HE CAN USE THE OPAQUE TILES IN JUST THE RIGHT WAY...
HE CAN PUT MORE PRESSURE ON WASHIZU, FIRST OF ALL...
IF HE CAN ADVANCE HIS HAND HERE...

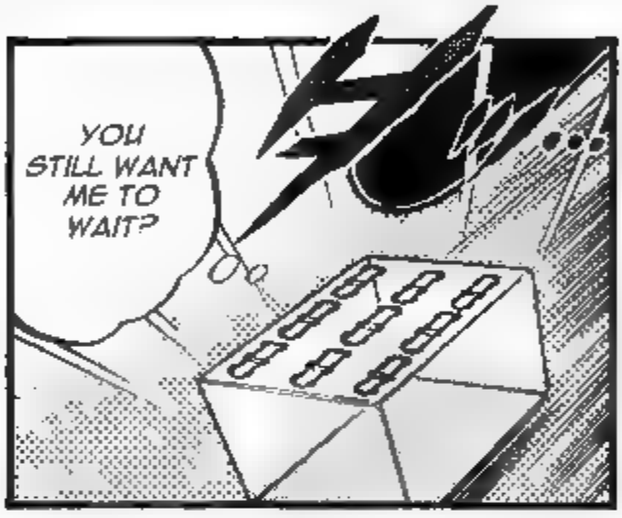
By drawing a useless tile and putting it into his hand in a certain way...
Yasu-oka...


Yasu-oka...
MAKE A MOVE!!
AKAGI!

Was thinking the same thing as Ohgi.

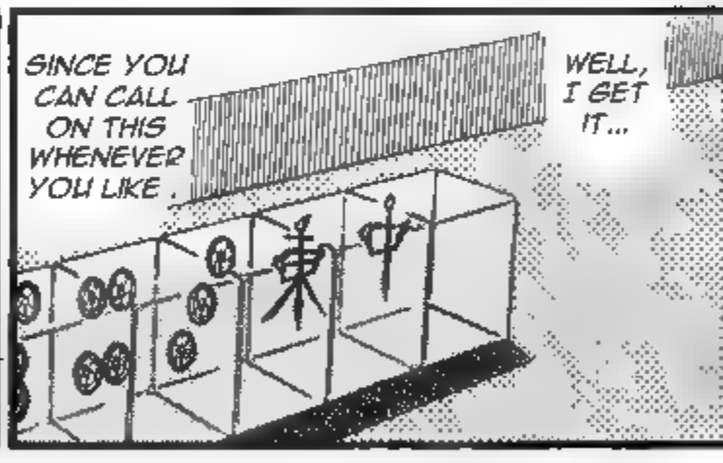
Akagi does not return the signal.
But...

Sends a signal of "call on this" to Akagi.

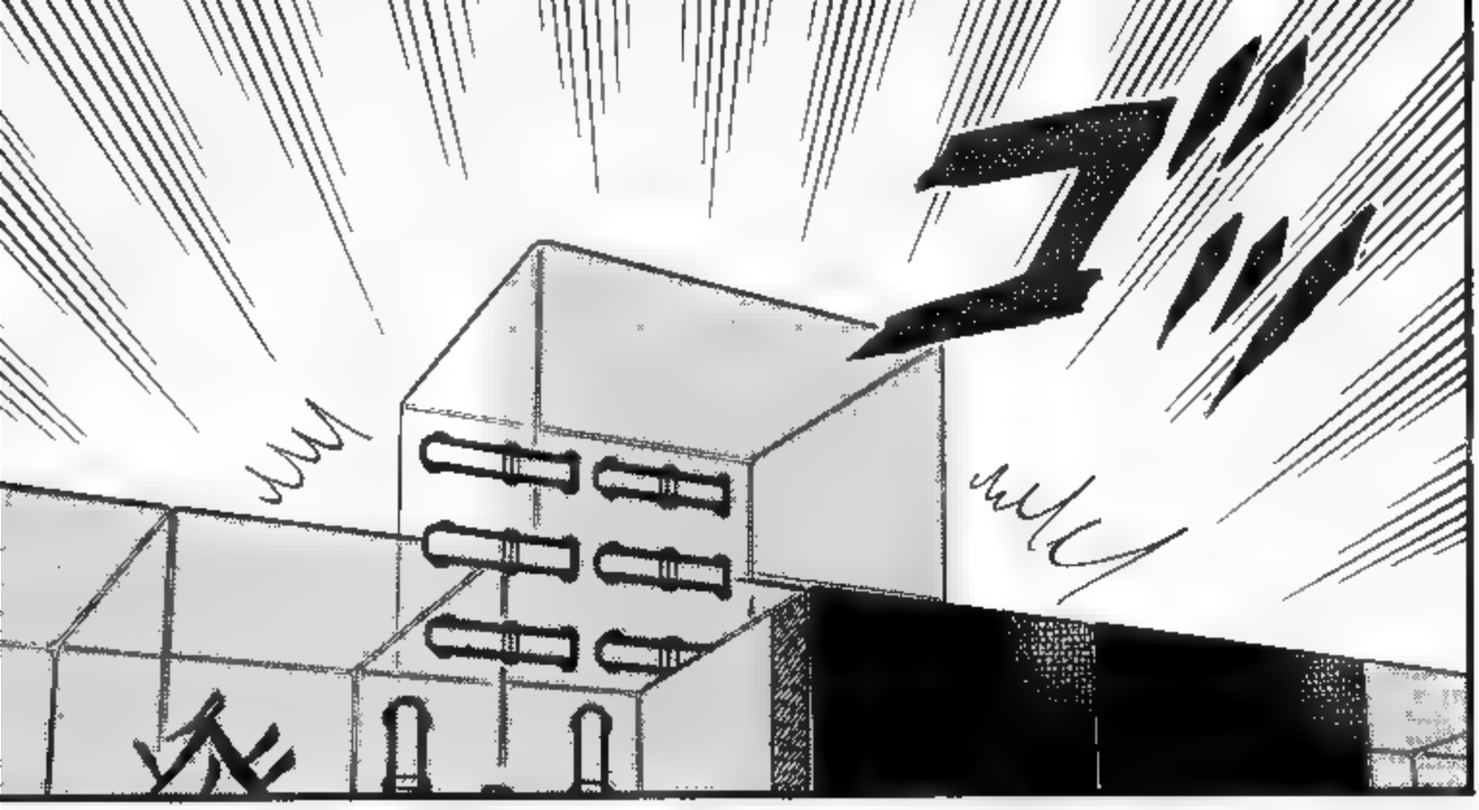

YOU STILL WANT ME TO WAIT?

NOT YET...?
.....

STILL...
NORMALLY THERE'D BE NO NEED TO HURRY, BUT...


SINCE YOU CAN CALL ON THIS WHENEVER YOU LIKE.
WELL, I GET IT...

EVERY MOMENT IS PRECIOUS!
RIGHT NOW



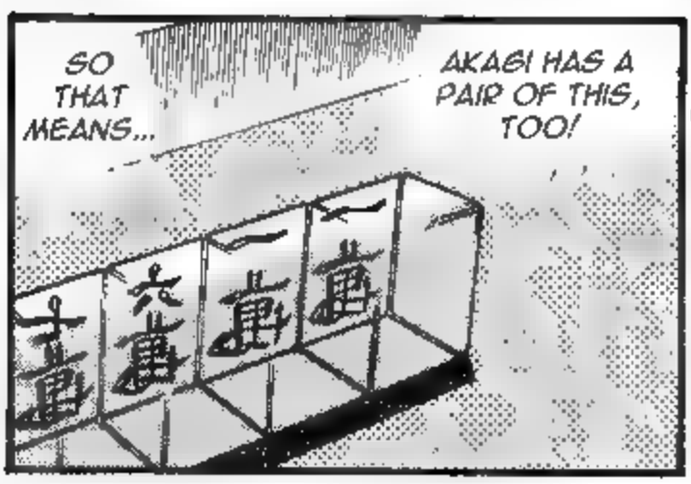
GGH...!

IS HE IN 1-SHAN-TEN ?
HE GOT 'AN-OTHER ONE...

On Yasuoka's 5th turn...
THERE'S JUST NO TIME!!
THERE'S NO TIME!

THIS IS AS FAR AS IT GOES!
AKAGI!

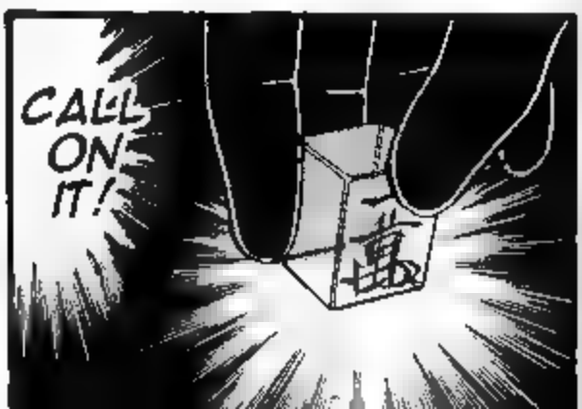
NNGH ...!


SO THAT MEANS...
AKAGI HAS A PAIR OF THIS, TOO!

THE 1-MAN ..!

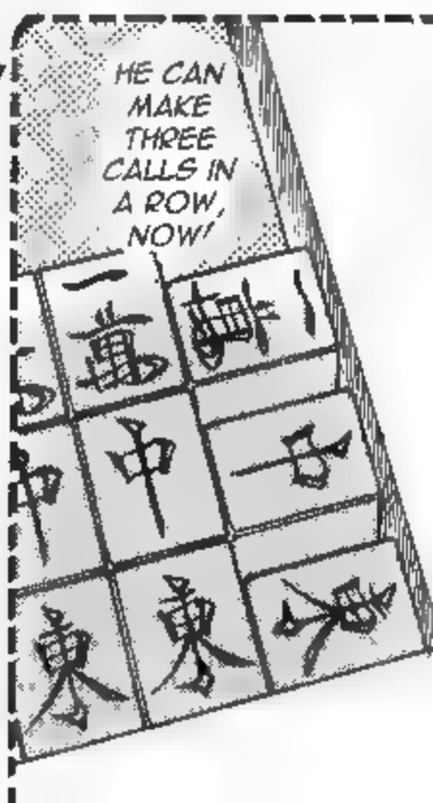
He draws it!

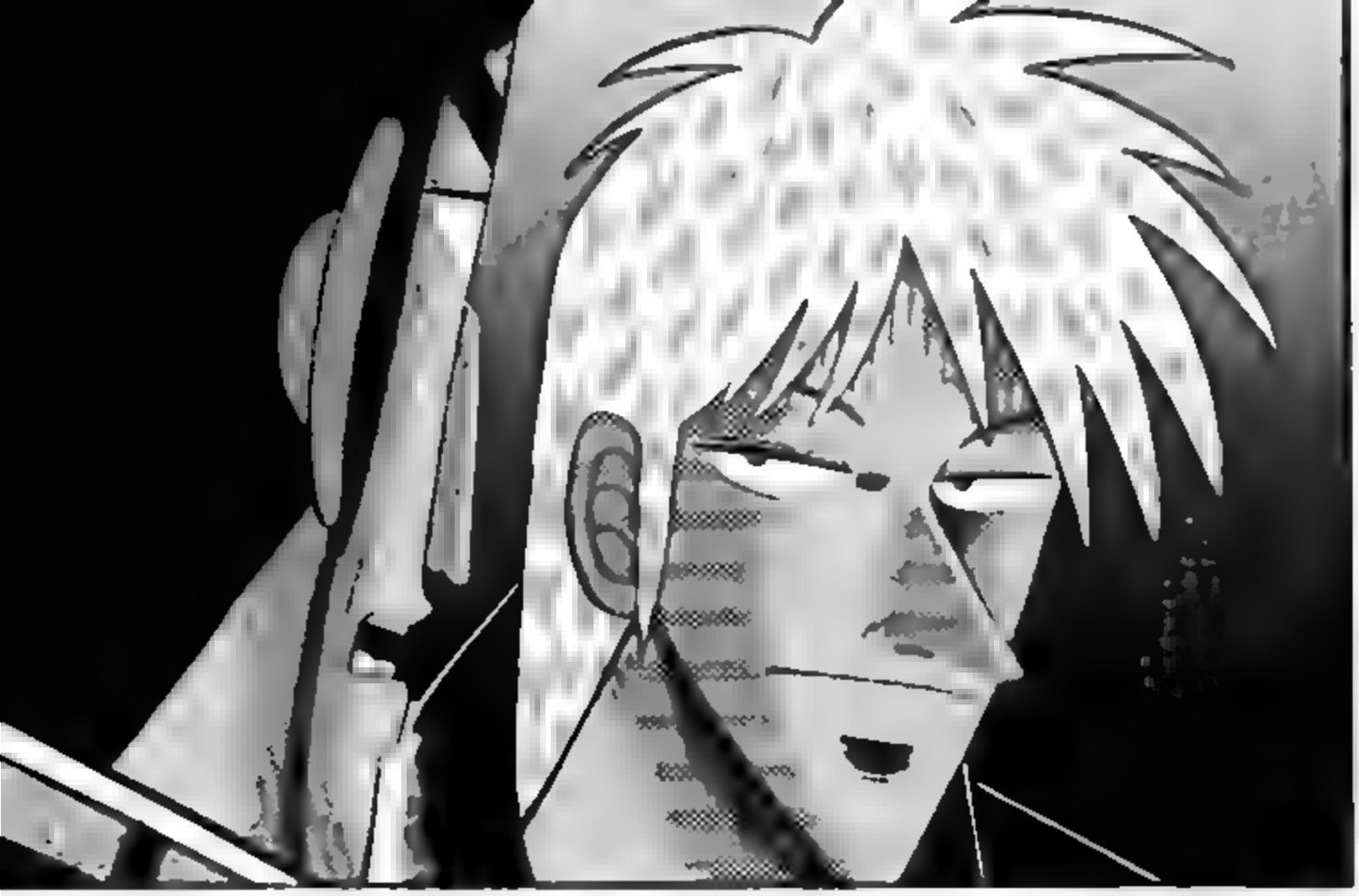
I'M GO-NNA PLAY THIS!
OKAY, AKAGI...

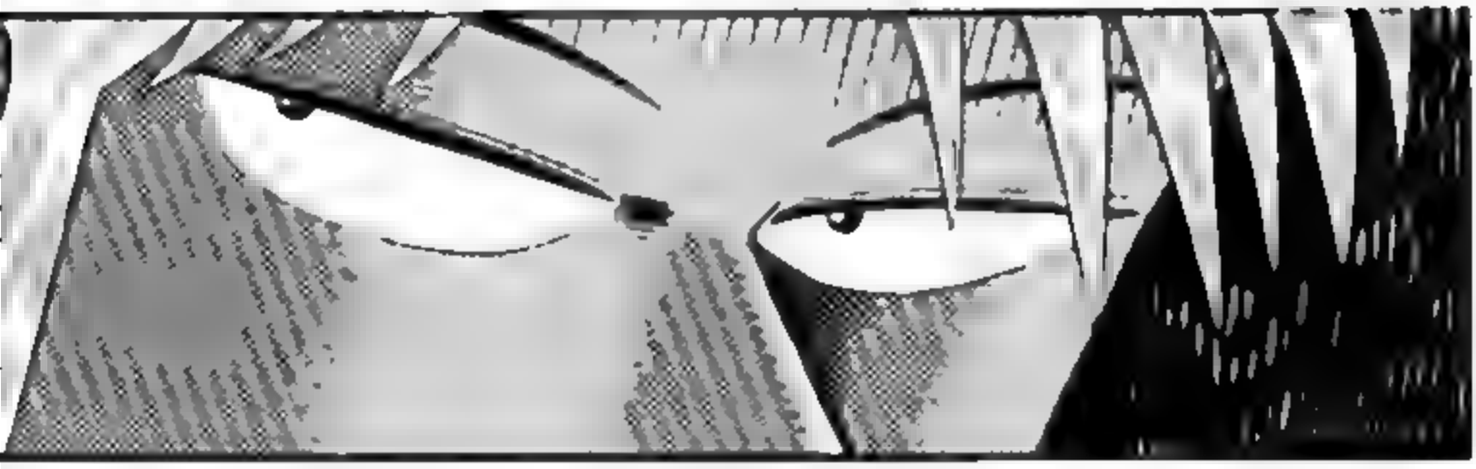

CALL ON IT!

IT'S PERFECT!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

YES!

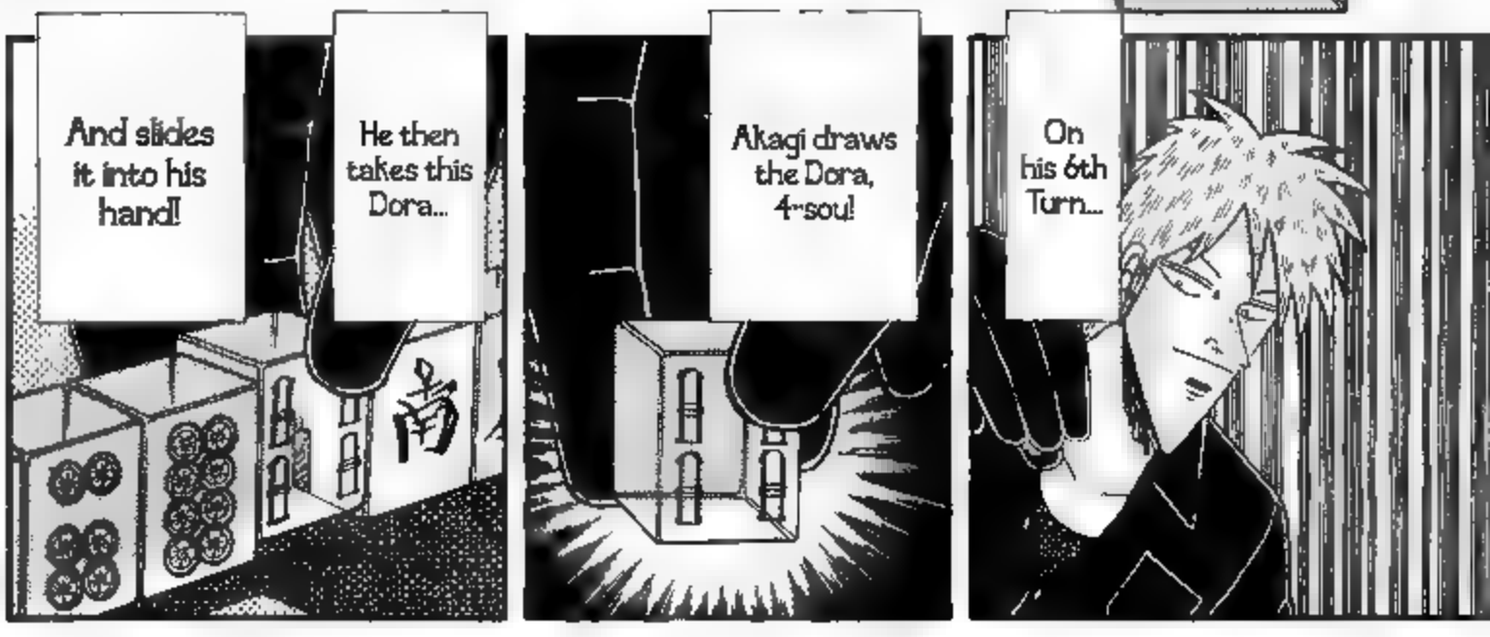

HE CAN MAKE THREE CALLS IN A ROW, NOW!





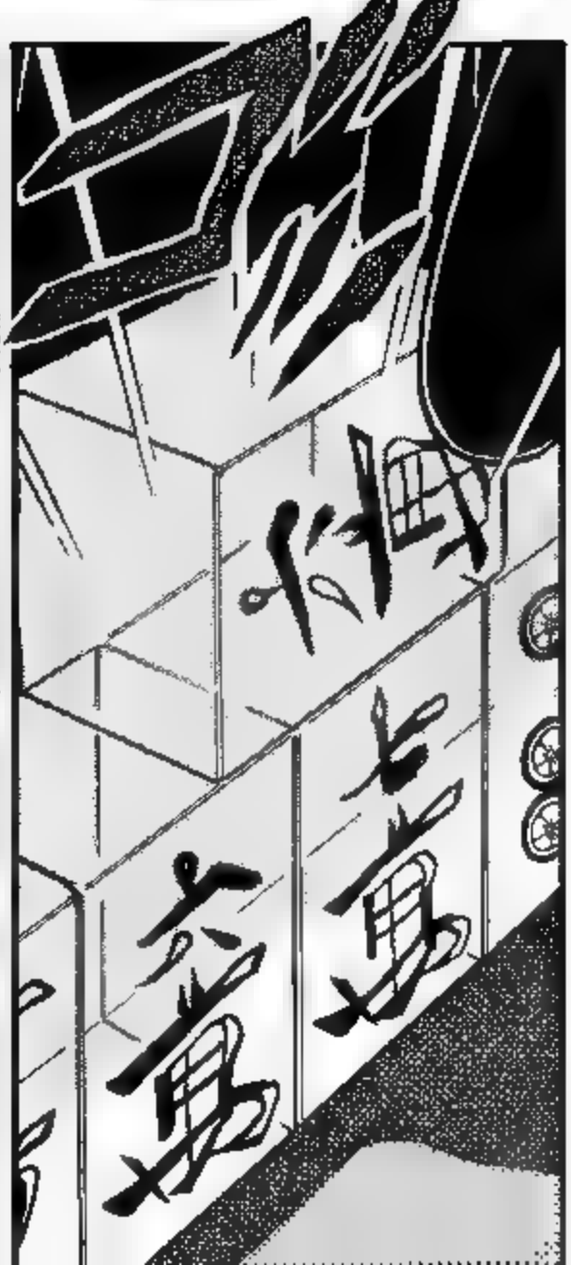
AKAGI
NO ...?
NNGH

AKAGI...
.....
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING...?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?!

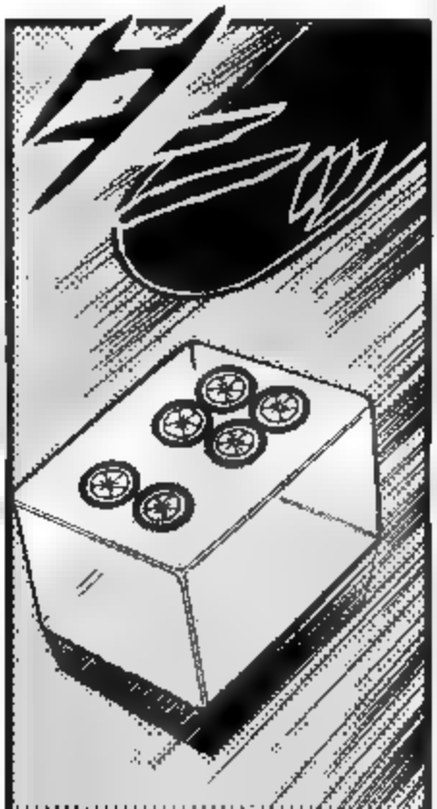

And slides it into his hand!
He then takes this Dora...
Akagi draws the Dora, 4-sou!
On his 6th Turn...

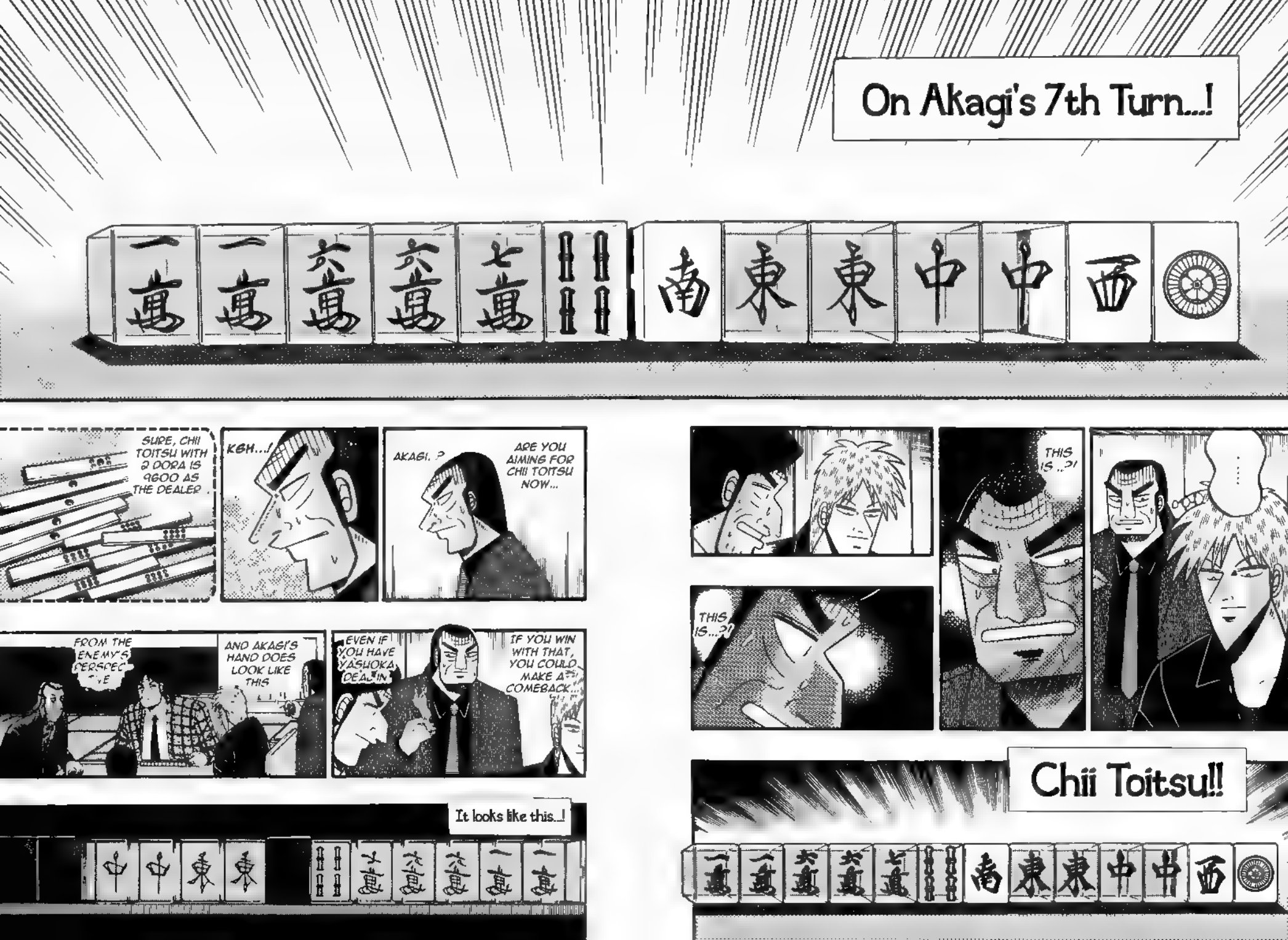
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DEALING?!
WHOA, WHOA!!
WHAT?!
AKAGI!!!
THERE'S NO TIME TO BE WAITING AROUND...

On Akagi's next turn...!!



AH-!

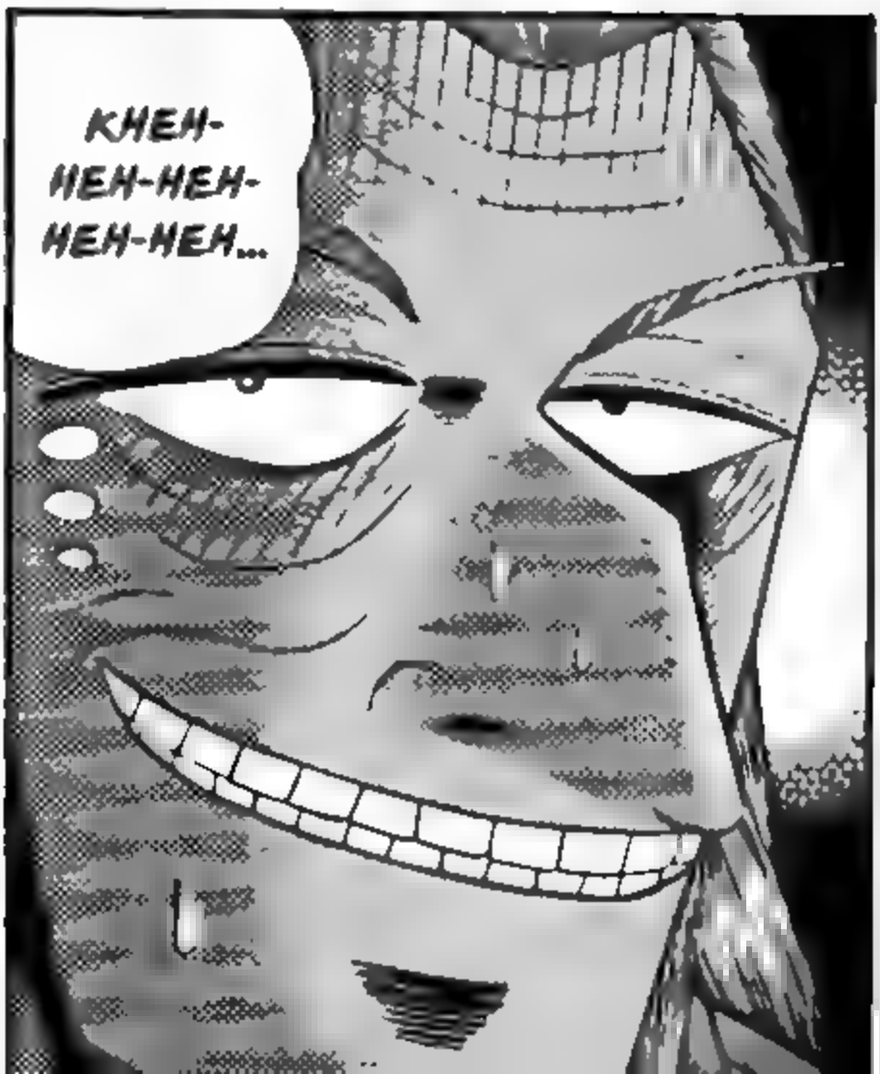



On Akagi's 7th Turn...!
SURE, CHII TOITSU WITH 2 DORA IS 9600 AS THE DEALER
KGH...!
AKAGI...?
ARE YOU AIMING FOR CHII TOITSU NOW...
FROM THE ENEMY'S PERSPECTIVE
AND AKAGI'S HAND DOES LOOK LIKE THIS
EVEN IF YOU HAVE YASUOKA DEALIN
IF YOU WIN WITH THAT, YOU COULD MAKE A COMEBACK...
It looks like this...!
THIS IS...?!
THIS IS...?!
Chii Toitsu!!

IT'S NOT UNREASONABLE FOR IT TO BE IN TENPAI!

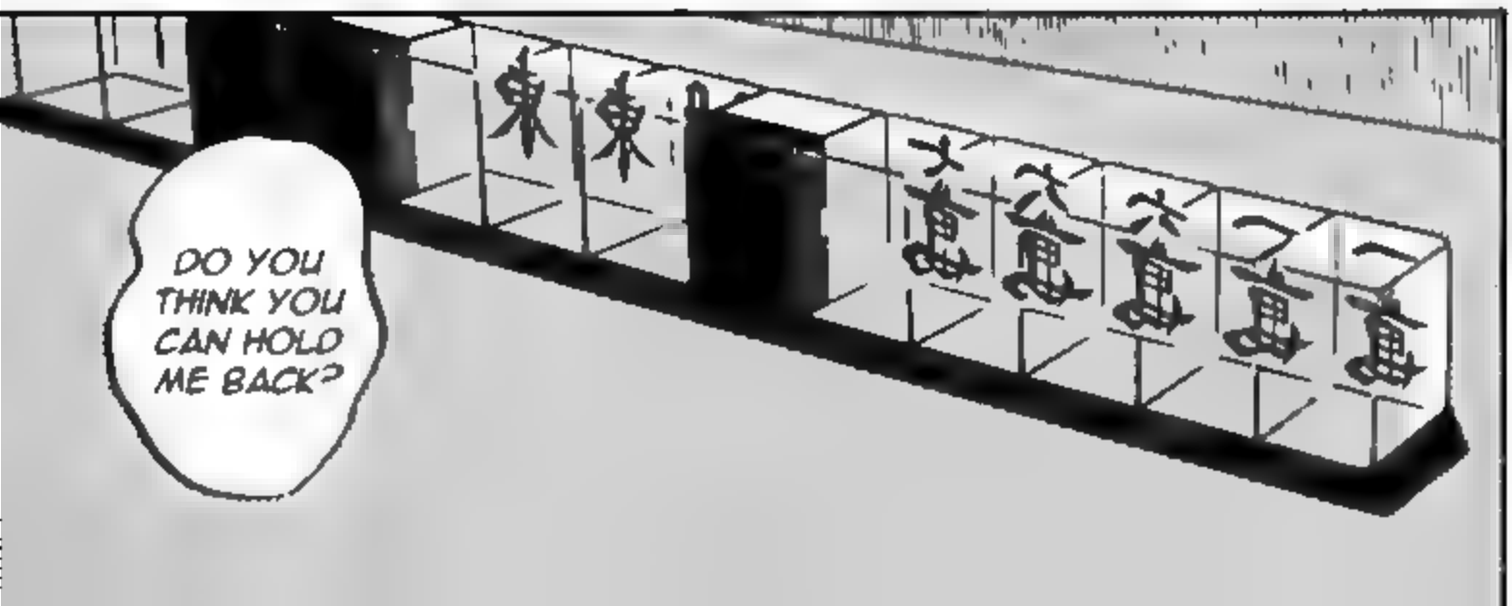
BUT

YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HOLD YOUR OPPONENT BACK WITH IT!
IF ALL GOES WELL


KHEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH...

KHEH-
HEH-
HEH...

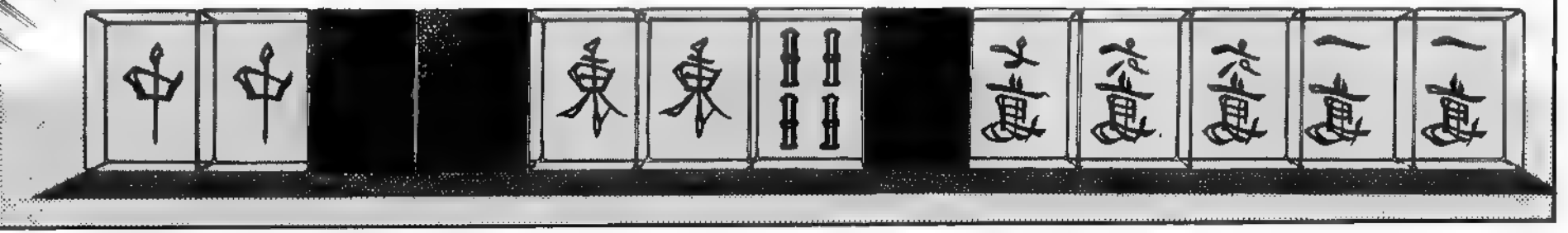
HOW
VERY
FOOLISH!
HOW
RIDICU-
LOUS...

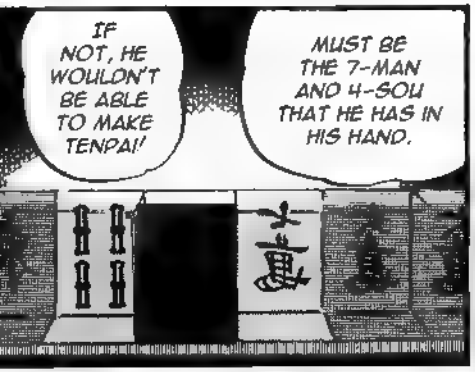

DO YOU
THINK YOU
CAN HOLD
ME BACK?

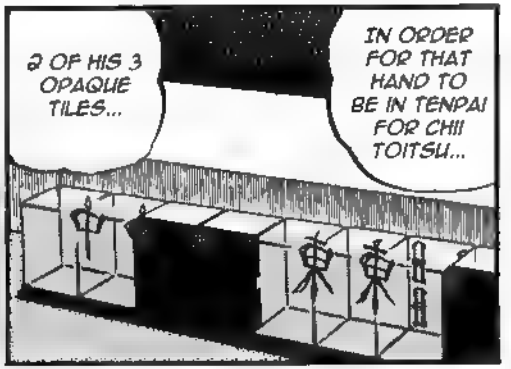
CHAPTER 78: CAMOUFLAGE
第78話 擬装

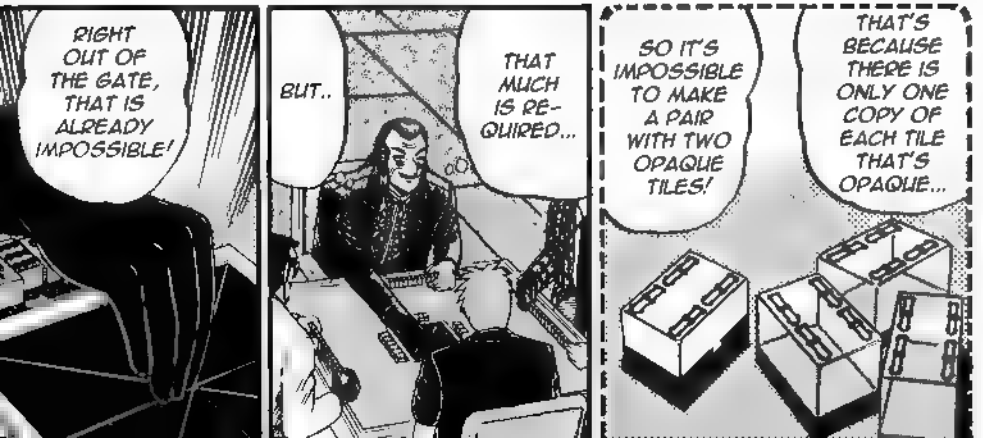
Akagi's Hand!

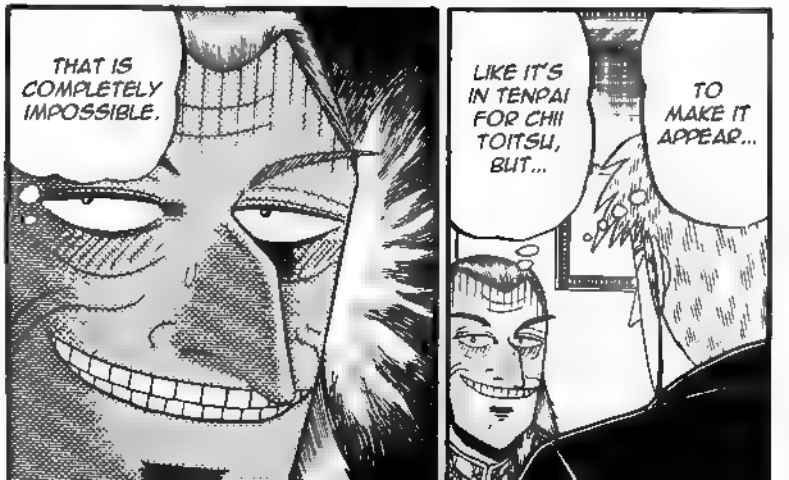
WITH A PITIFUL BLUFF LIKE THAT?

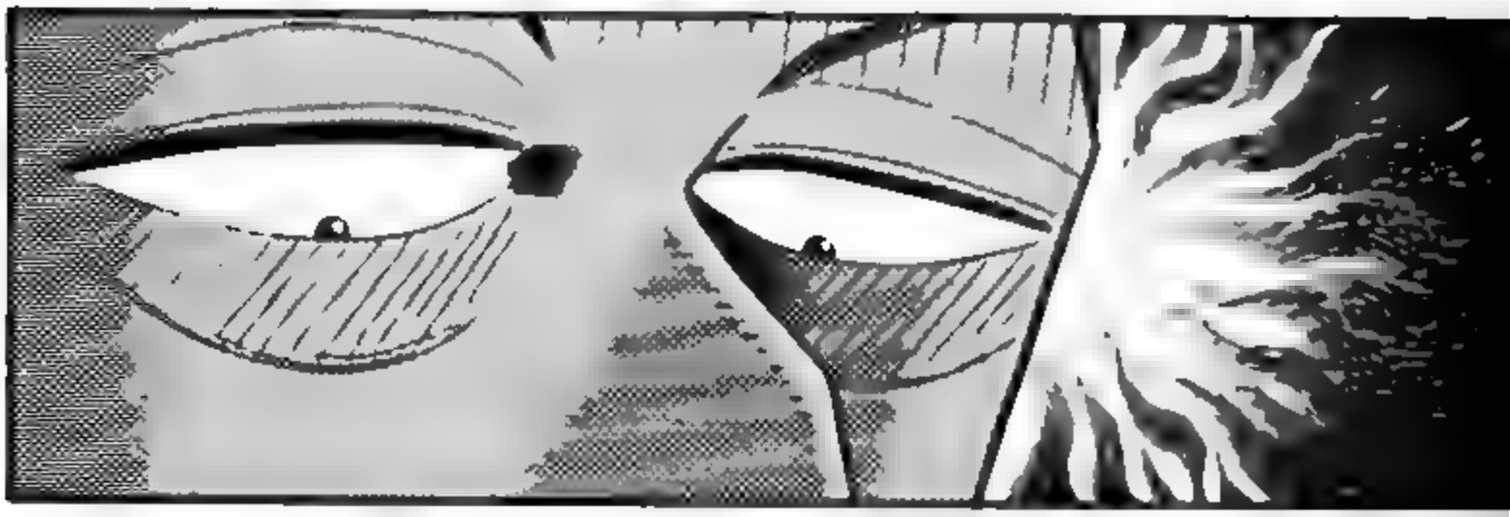




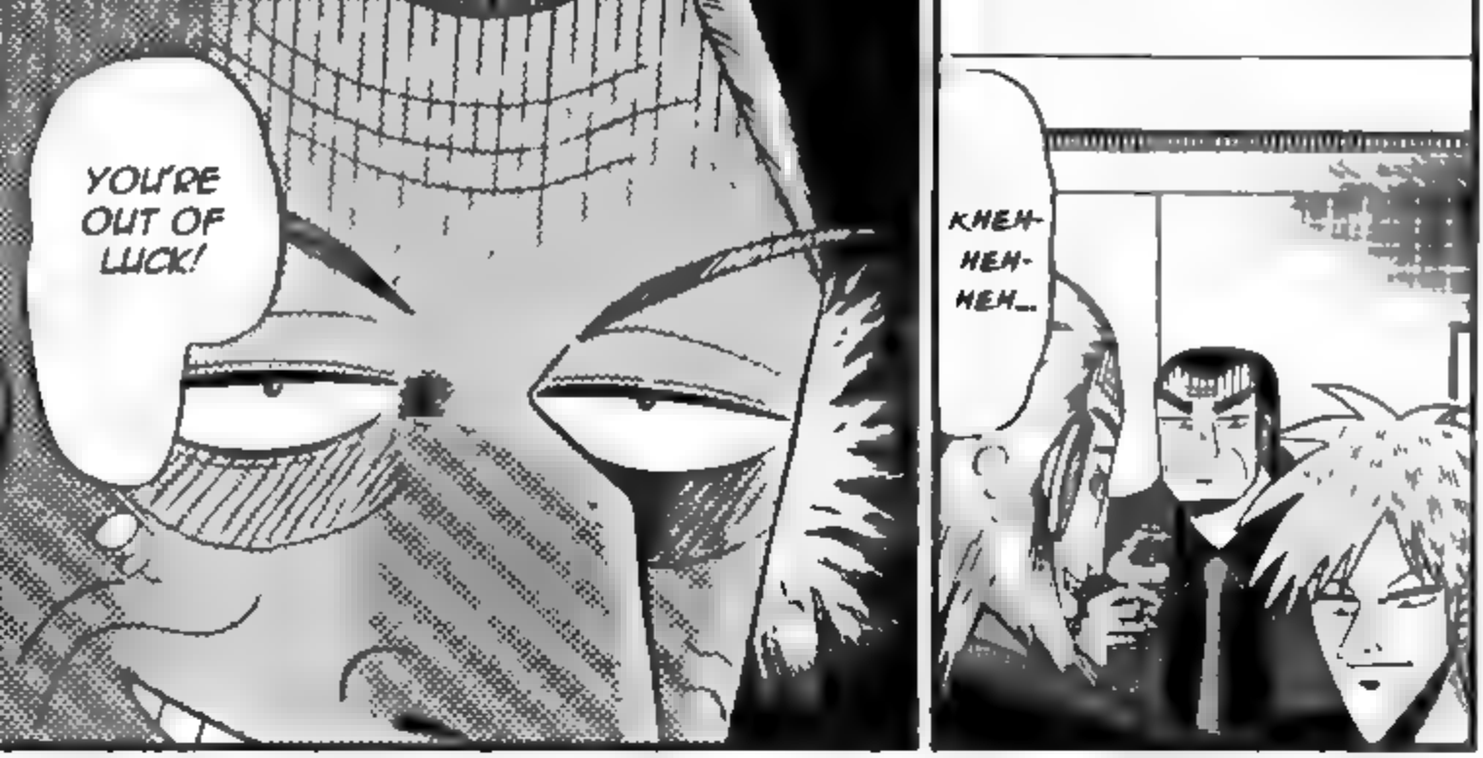


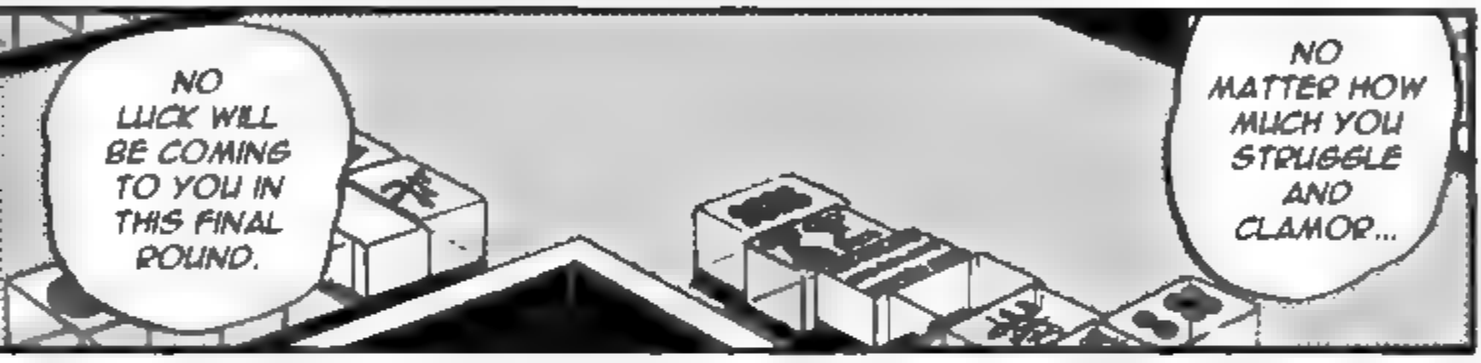

RIGHT OUT OF THE GATE, THAT IS ALREADY IMPOSSIBLE!
BUT..
THAT MUCH IS RE-QUIRED...
SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE A PAIR WITH TWO OPAQUE TILES!
THAT'S BECAUSE THERE IS ONLY ONE COPY OF EACH TILE THAT'S OPAQUE...

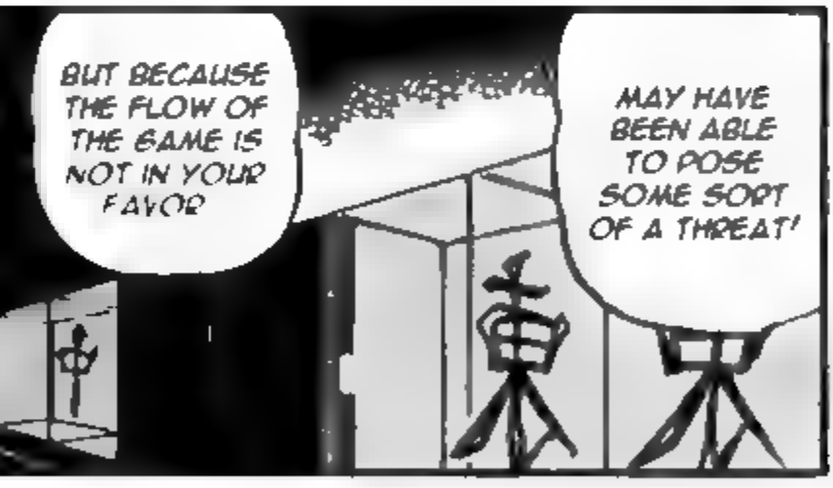


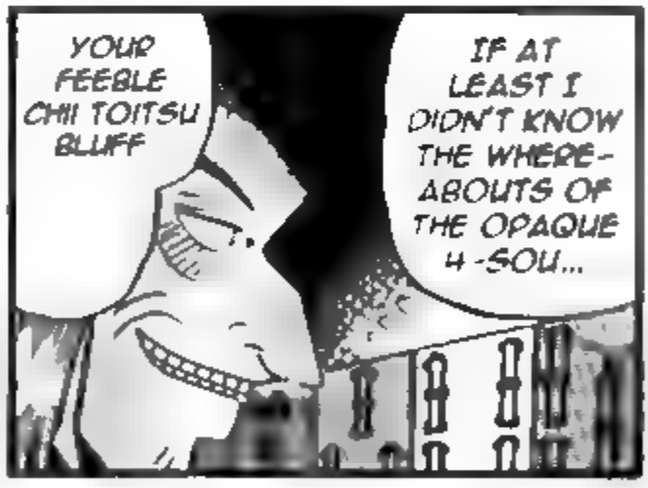


CAN ONLY BE IN I-SHAN-TEN, AT BEST!
AND AS A RESULT, HIS CHII TOITSU
IS ALREADY SECURED WITHIN MY HAND!
FOR THE OPAQUE COPY OF THE 4-SOU...


YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK!
KHEH-HEH-HEH...

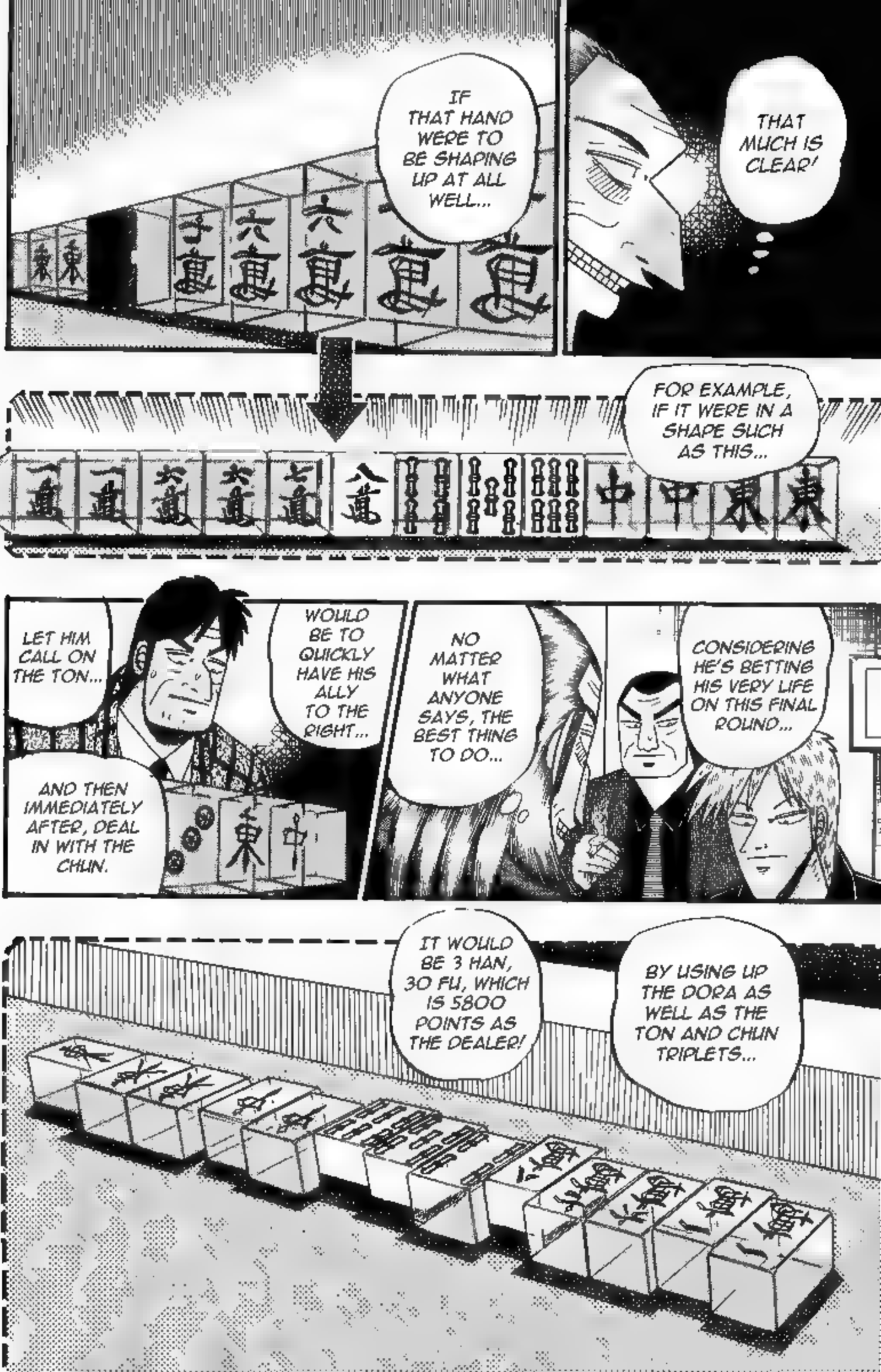

NO LUCK WILL BE COMING TO YOU IN THIS FINAL ROUND.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STRUGGLE AND CLAMOR...

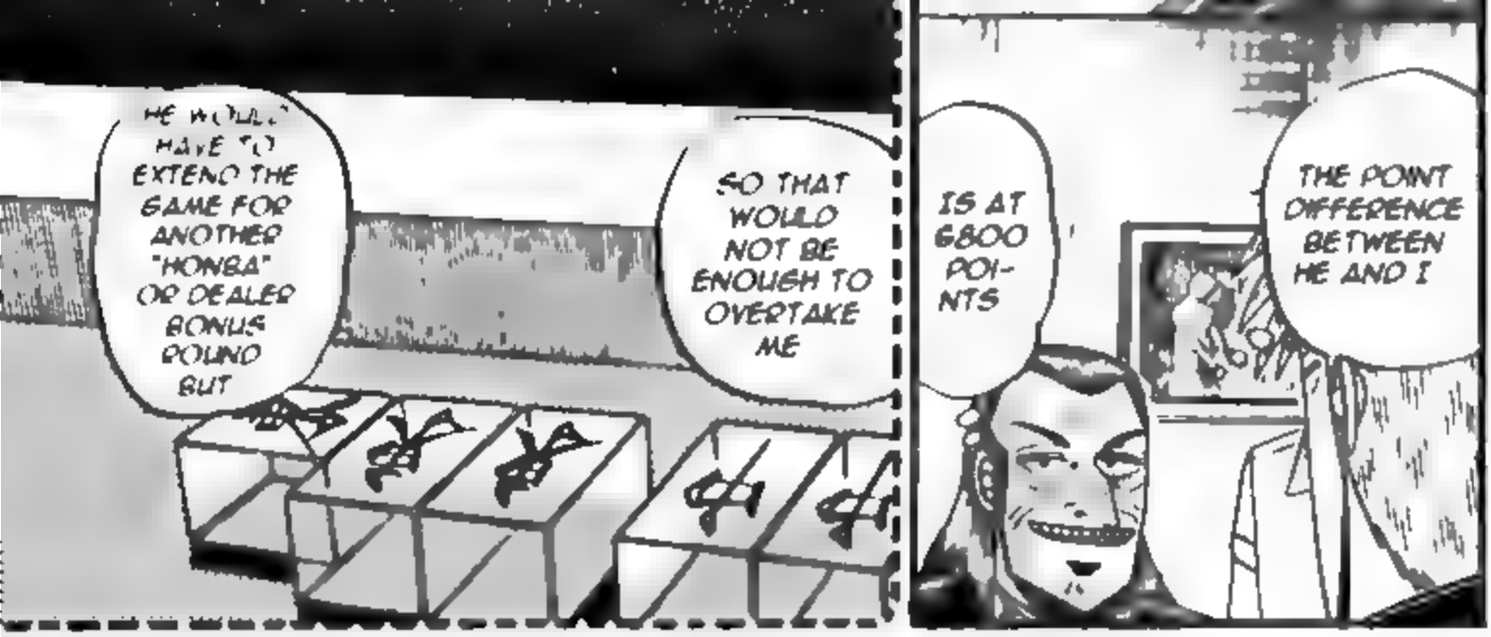

BUT BECAUSE THE FLOW OF THE GAME IS NOT IN YOUR FAVOR
MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO POSE SOME SORT OF A THREAT!


YOUR FEEBLE CHII TOITSU BLUFF
IF AT LEAST I DIDN'T KNOW THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF THE OPAQUE 4-SOU...

EVEN WITHOUT LOOKING AT IT VERY CLOSELY
NATURALLY, YOUR HAND'S PROGRESSION IS BAD.

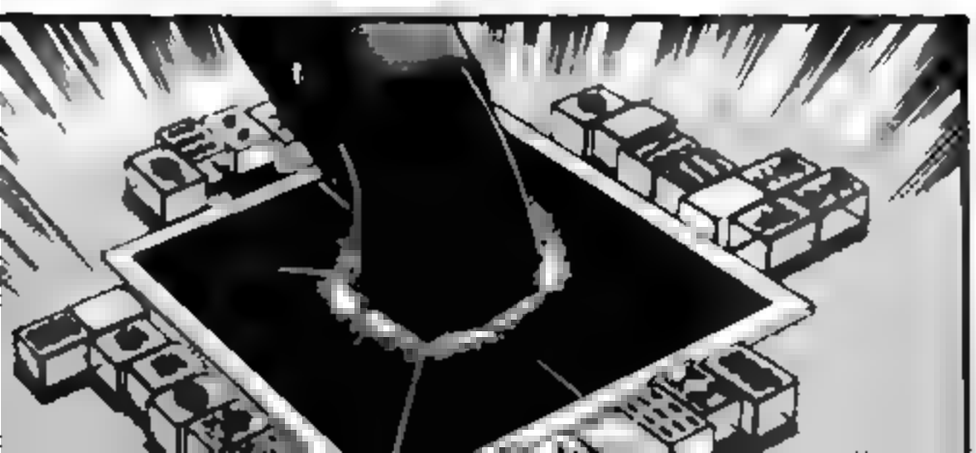
YOU COULDN'T EVEN MAKE IT TO THAT POINT


IF THAT HAND WERE TO BE SHAPING UP AT ALL WELL...
THAT MUCH IS CLEAR!
FOR EXAMPLE, IF IT WERE IN A SHAPE SUCH AS THIS...
LET HIM CALL ON THE TON...
AND THEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER, DEAL IN WITH THE CHUN.
WOULD BE TO QUICKLY HAVE HIS ALLY TO THE RIGHT...
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS, THE BEST THING TO DO...
CONSIDERING HE'S BETTING HIS VERY LIFE ON THIS FINAL ROUND...
IT WOULD BE 3 HAN, 30 FU, WHICH IS 5800 POINTS AS THE DEALER!
BY USING UP THE DORA AS WELL AS THE TON AND CHUN TRIPLETS...

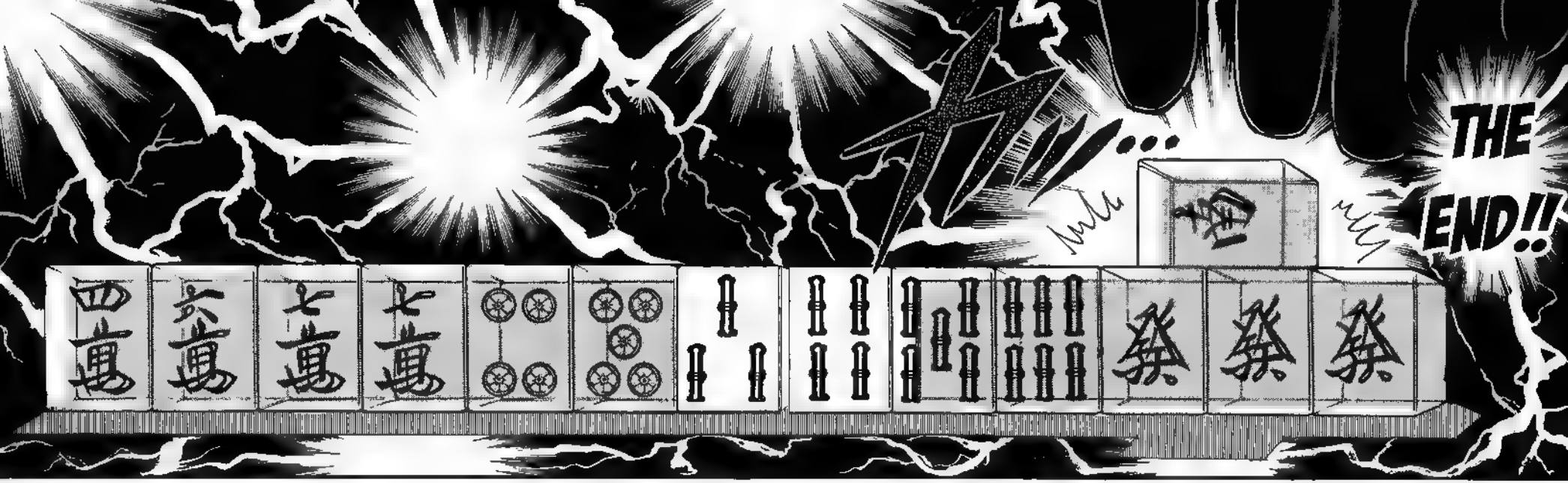

HE WOULD HAVE TO EXTEND THE GAME FOR ANOTHER "HONBA" OR DEALER BONUS ROUND BUT
SO THAT WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO OVERTAKE ME
IS AT 6800 POINTS
THE POINT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HE AND I

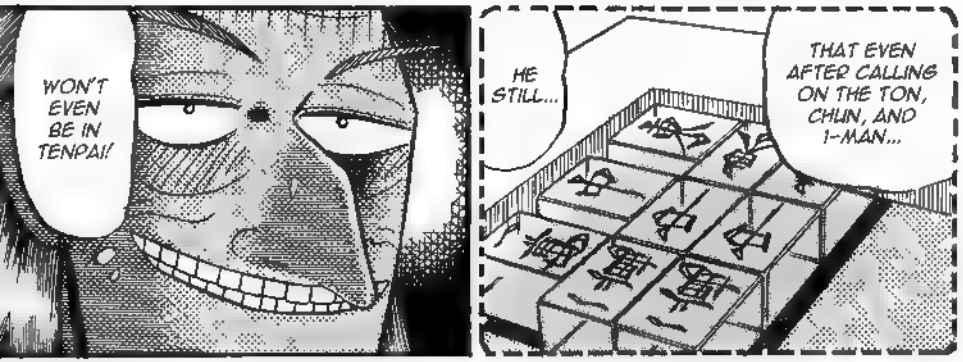
WITH THAT DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCE IN MIND.
IF I COMPLETE A HAND, THAT WILL END THE GAME
THIS IS THE FINAL ROUND.

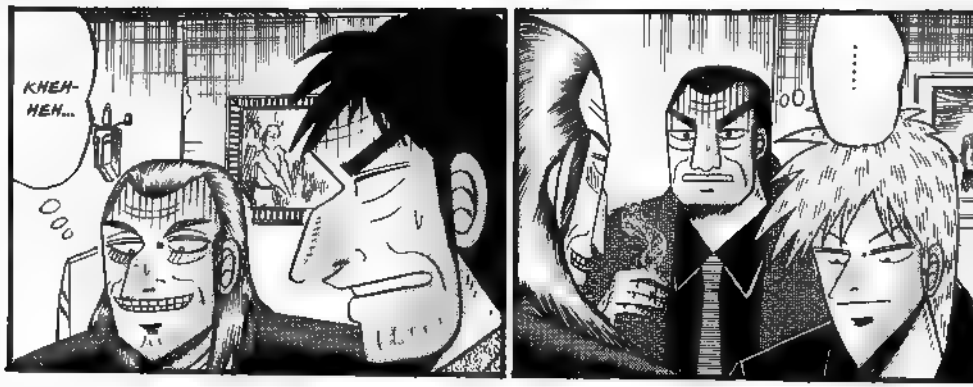
I MAKE IT TO TENPAI
BECAUSE IF, HERE AND NOW...

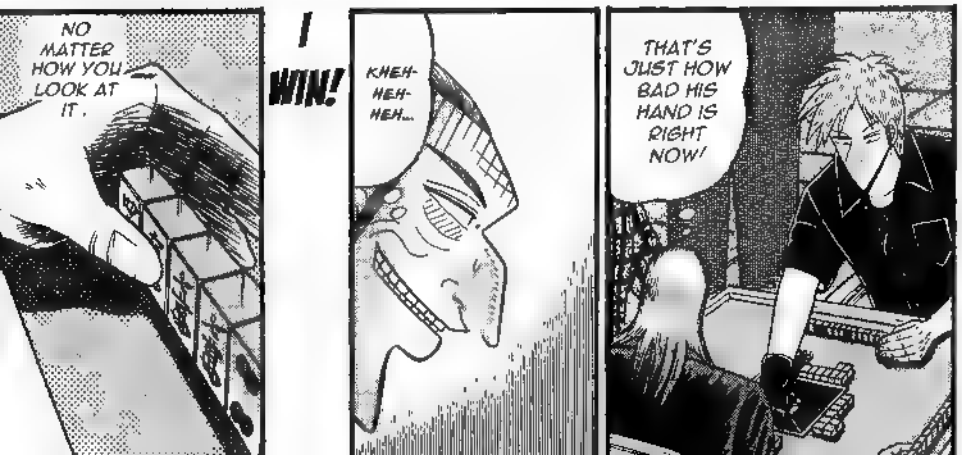


JUST BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T OVERCOME THE POINT DIFFERENCE ALL AT ONCE
I DOUBT HE'S EVEN CONSIDERING NOT TAKING THAT WIN.

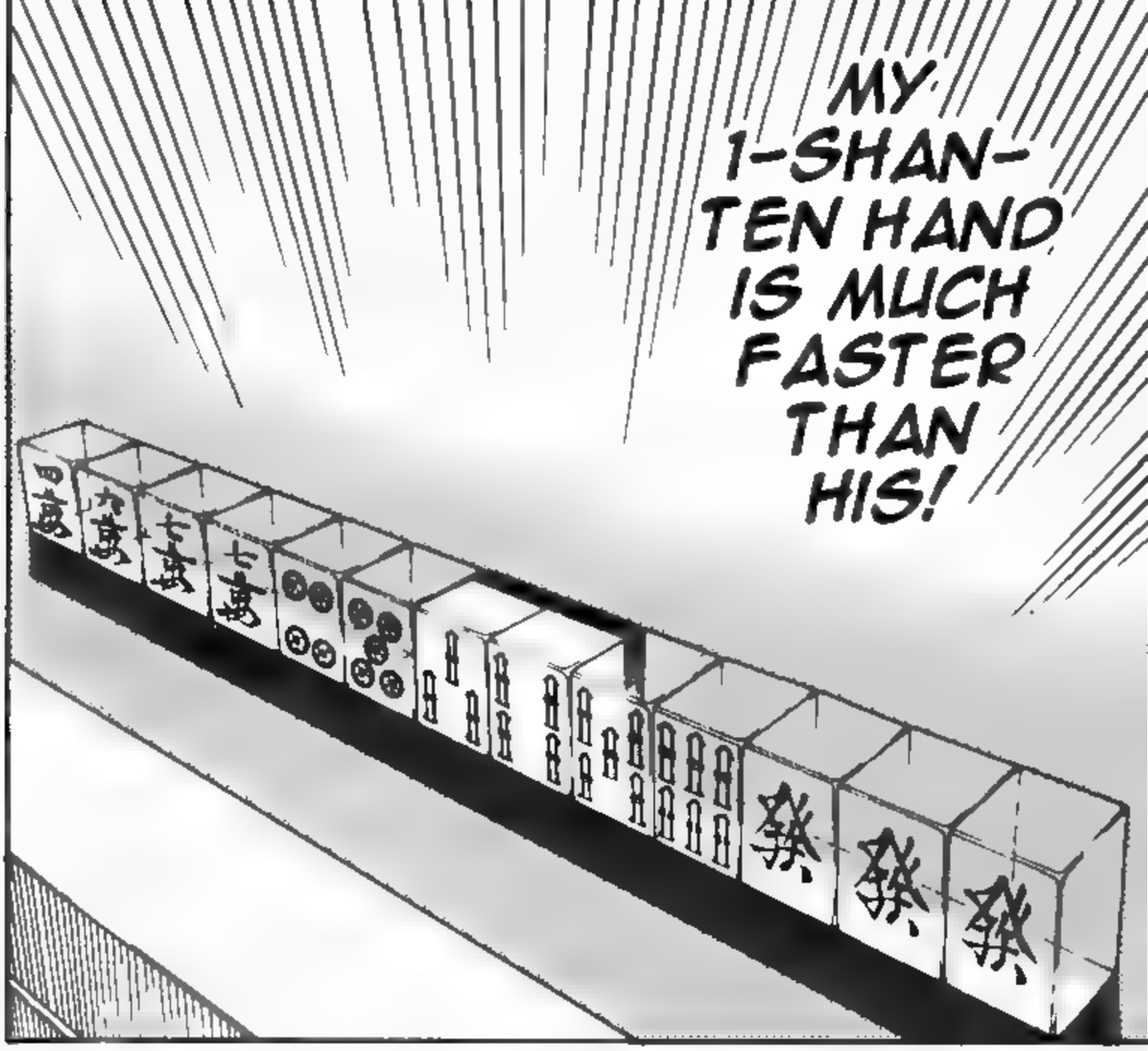

THE END!!


WON'T EVEN BE IN TENPAI!
HE STILL...
THAT EVEN AFTER CALLING ON THE TON, CHUN, AND 1-MAN...


KHEH-HEH...
.....

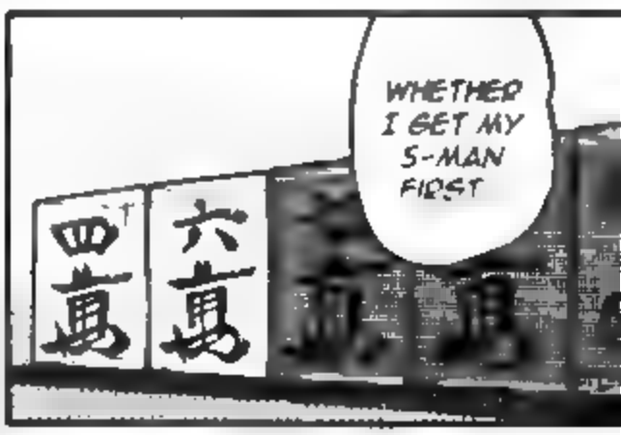

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT,
I WIN!
KHEH-HEH-HEH...
THAT'S JUST HOW BAD HIS HAND IS RIGHT NOW!

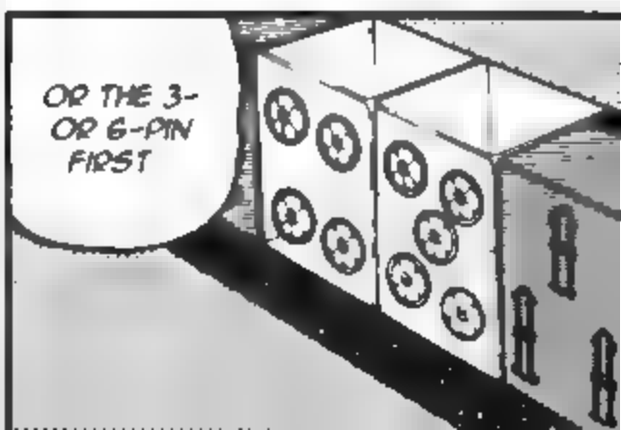
THE FACT THAT HE STILL HASN'T CAN ONLY MEAN...
IF HE CAN MOVE, THEN HE WILL.
IT'S CLEAR THAT HE NEEDS TO MOVE.


MY 1-SHAN-TEN HAND IS MUCH FASTER THAN HIS!

IT'S GUA-RAN-TEED!

NO MATTER WHICH I DRAW...
SUZUKI CAN IMMEDIATELY DEAL IN TO THE OTHER SIDE, WHICH WILL FORM MY HAND'S FINAL WAIT!

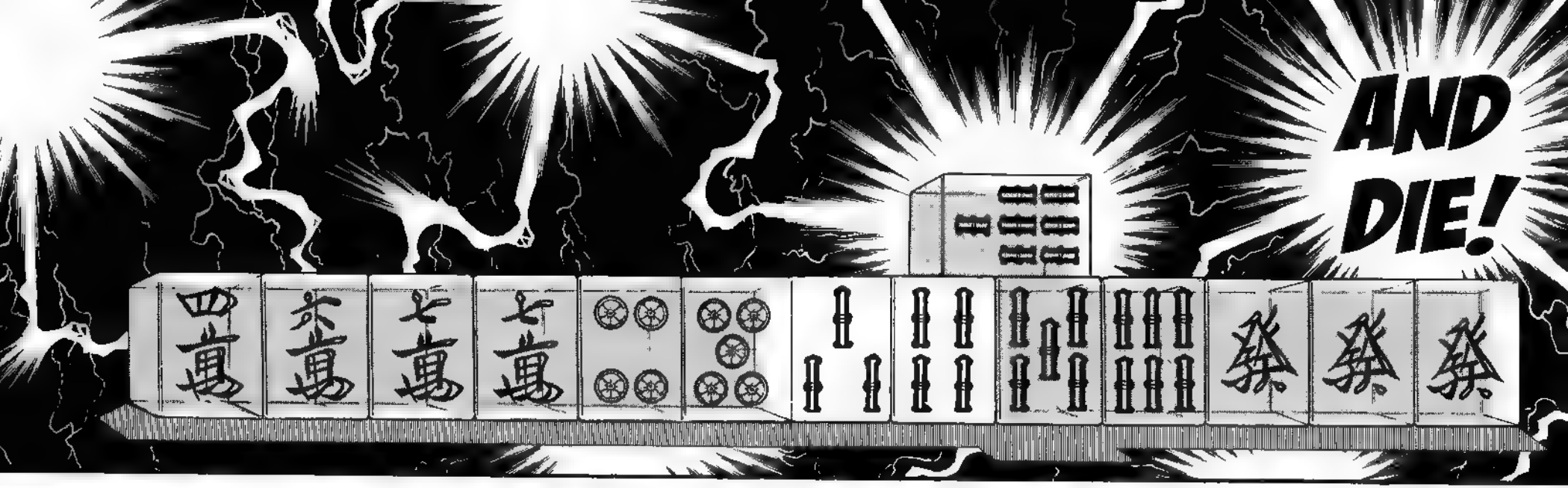

WHETHER I GET MY 5-MAN FIRST

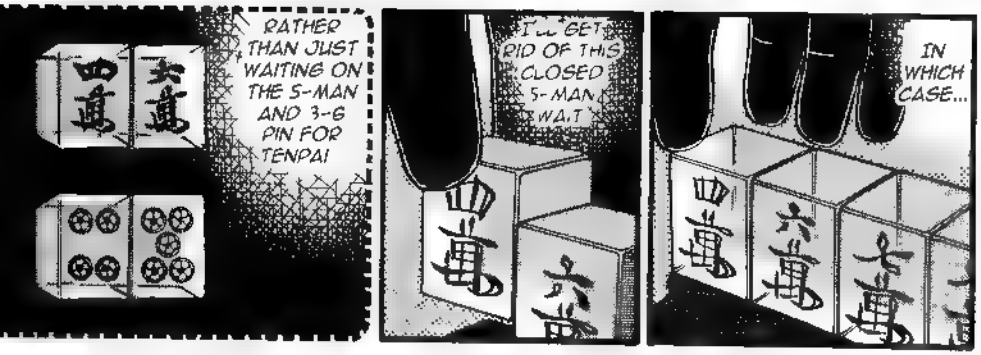

OR THE 3- OR 6-PIN FIRST

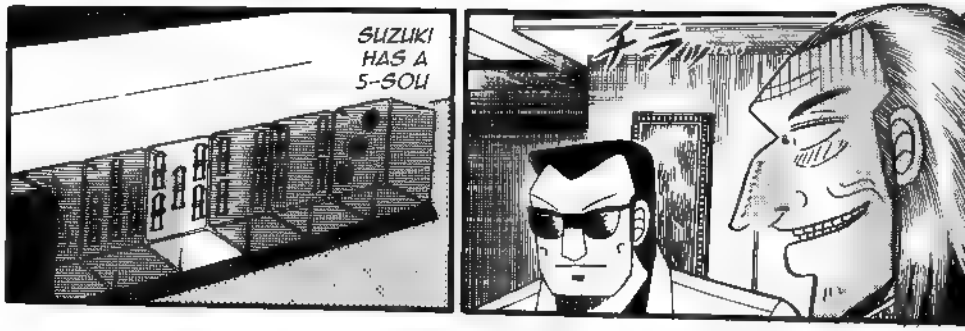
YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE!
AKA-GI...

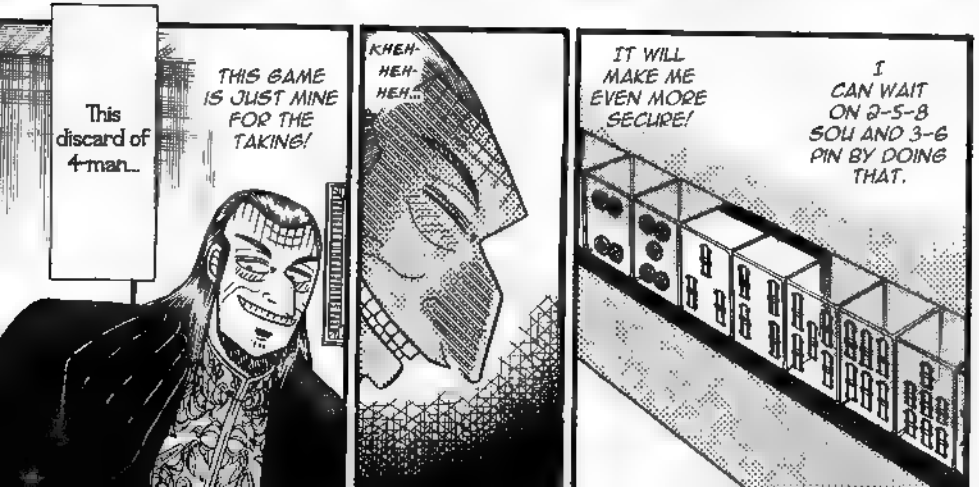
NEGLE-CTING THE OVER-ARCHING FLOW OF MAH-JONG
THIS IS THE REPER-CUSSION FOR YOUR PETTY TRICKS.
THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF IT, NOW!

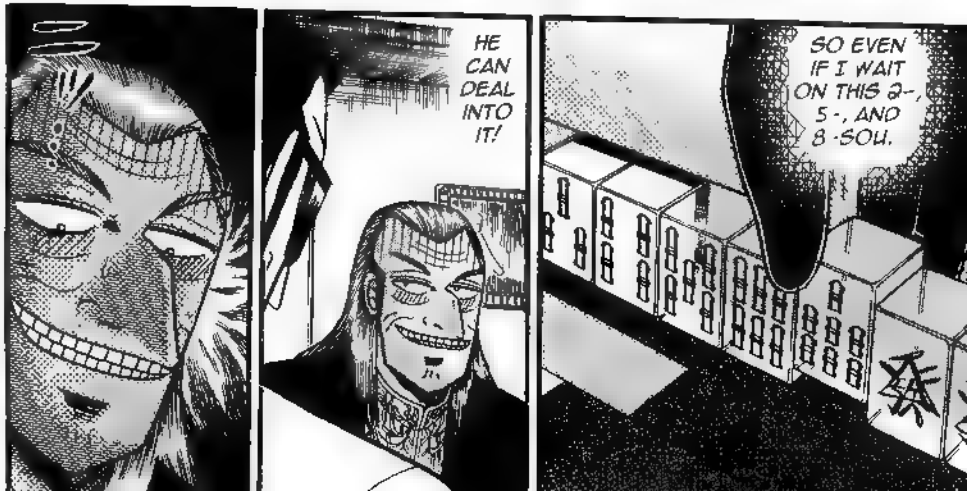
IT'S TOO LATE TO TRY AND MAKE UP FOR YOUR ERROR!
THIS IS AL-READY THE FINAL ROUND.
YOU'RE GONE TO LOSE
WAS WHERE YOU MADE YOUR MIS-TAKE!


AND DIE!

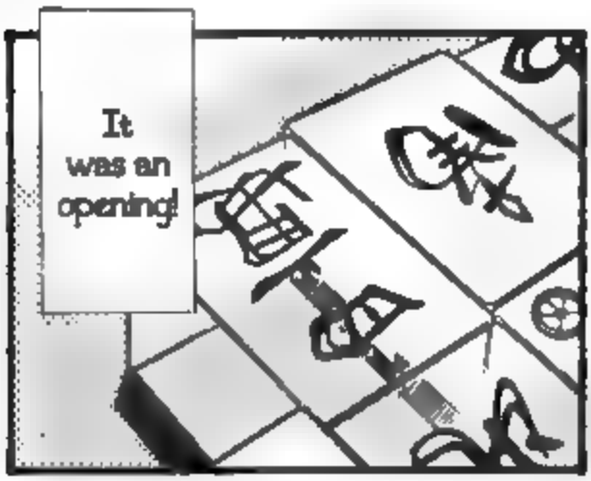

RATHER THAN JUST WAITING ON THE 5-MAN AND 3-6 PIN FOR TENPAI
I'll GET RID OF THIS CLOSED 5-MAN WAIT
IN WHICH CASE...


SUZUKI HAS A 5-SOU
キラッ

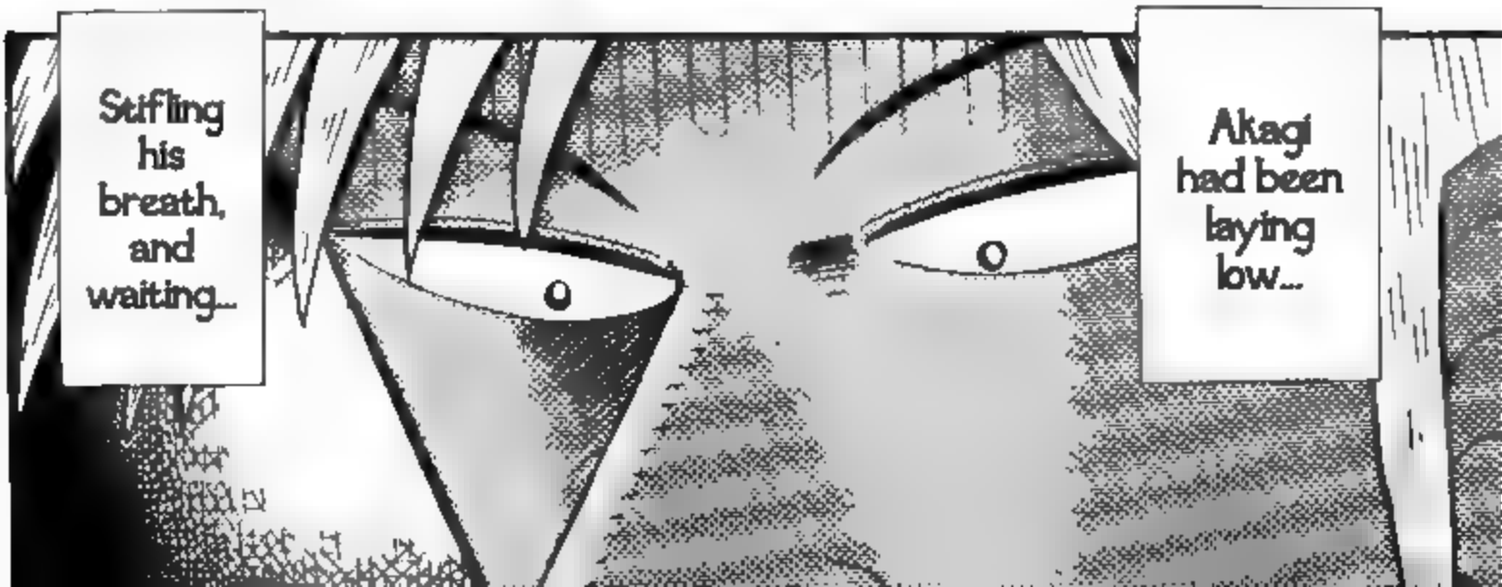

This discard of 4-man...
THIS GAME IS JUST MINE FOR THE TAKING!
KEHHEHHEH...
IT WILL MAKE ME EVEN MORE SECURE!
I CAN WAIT ON 2-5-8 SOU AND 3-6 PIN BY DOING THAT.


HE CAN DEAL INTO IT!
SO EVEN IF I WAIT ON THIS 2-, 5-, AND 8-SOU.

This one discard...


It was an opening!

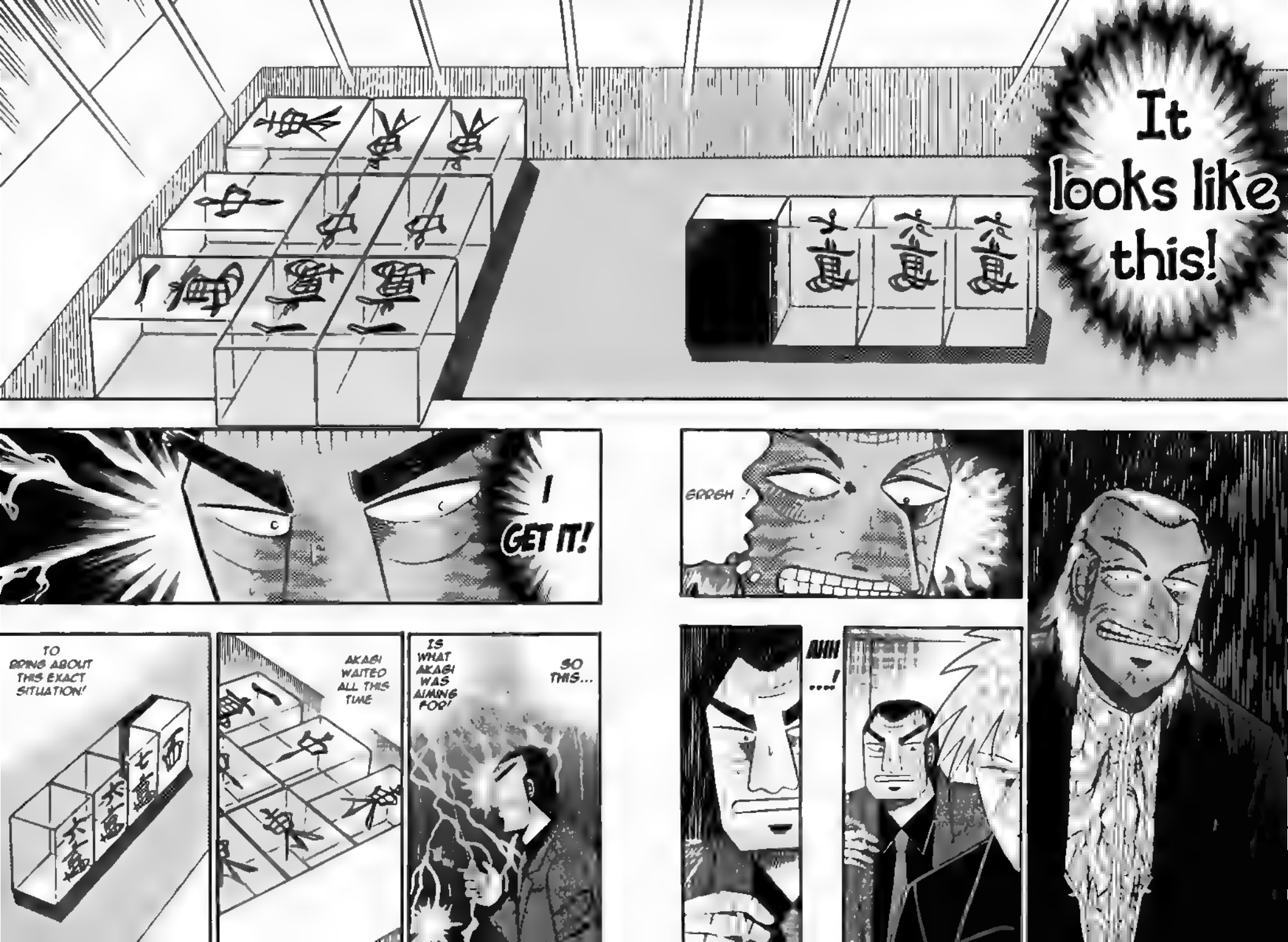
That Washi-zu had shown any sign of relax-ing his game.
Was the only time in this final round...

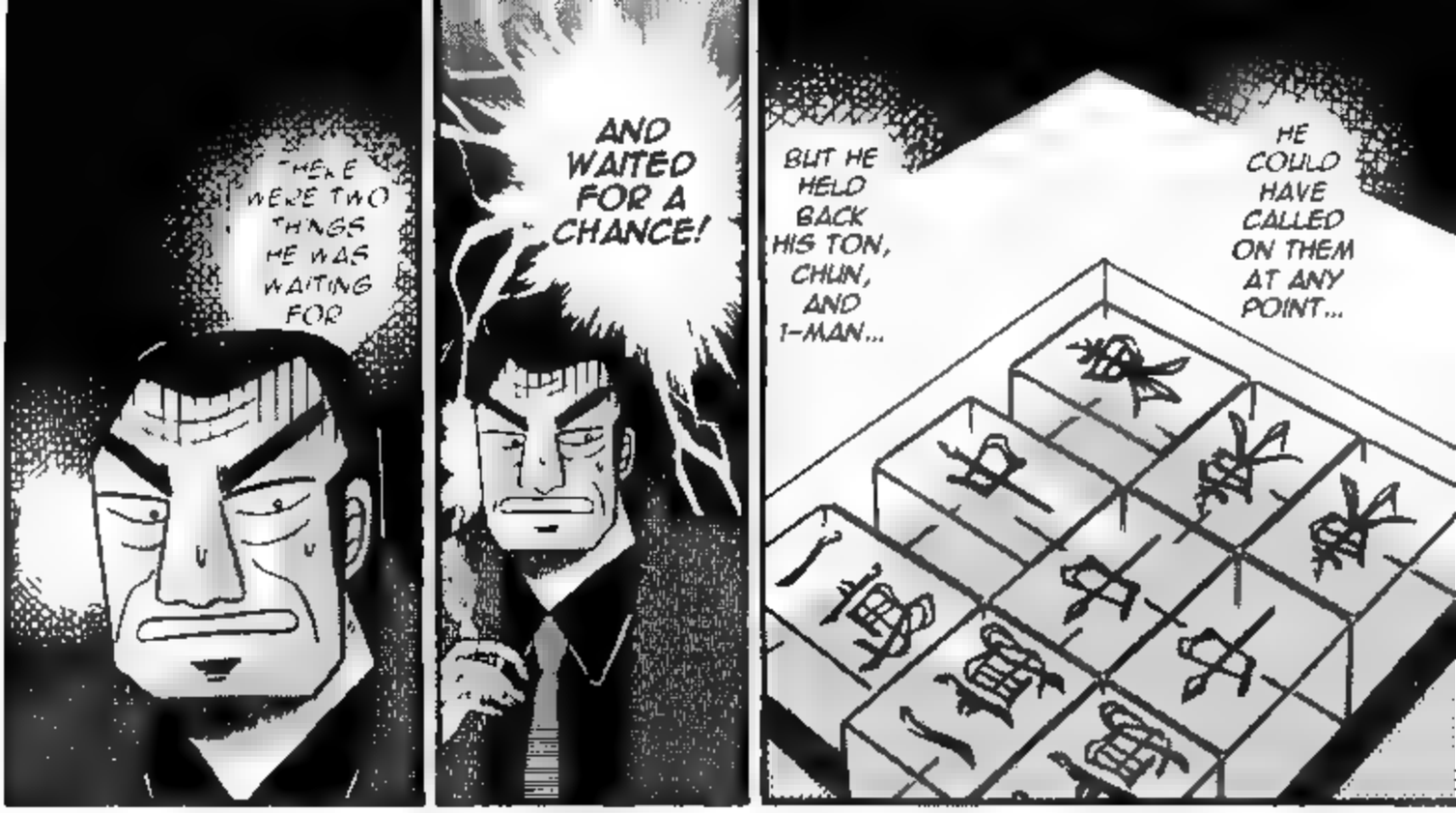

Stifling his breath, and waiting...
Akagi had been laying low...

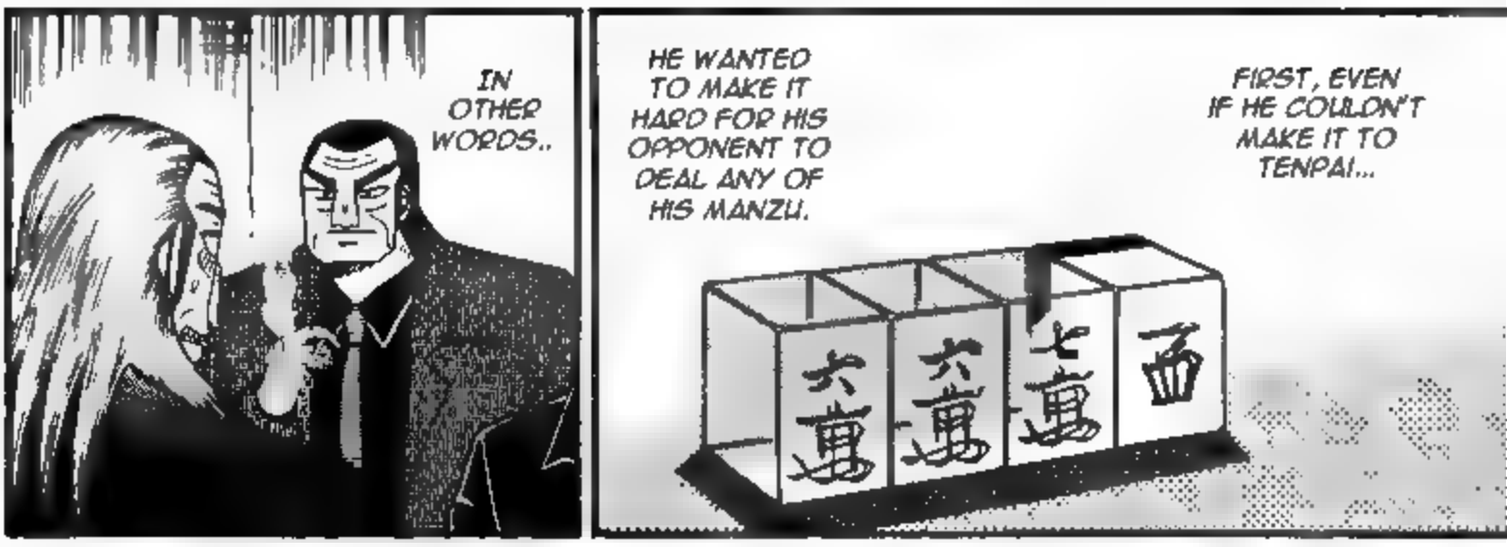
For this single discard!!
And so, Akagi sent a signal Yasuoka's way!
This discard of 4-man was his chance!
Telling him, "Let me call"!

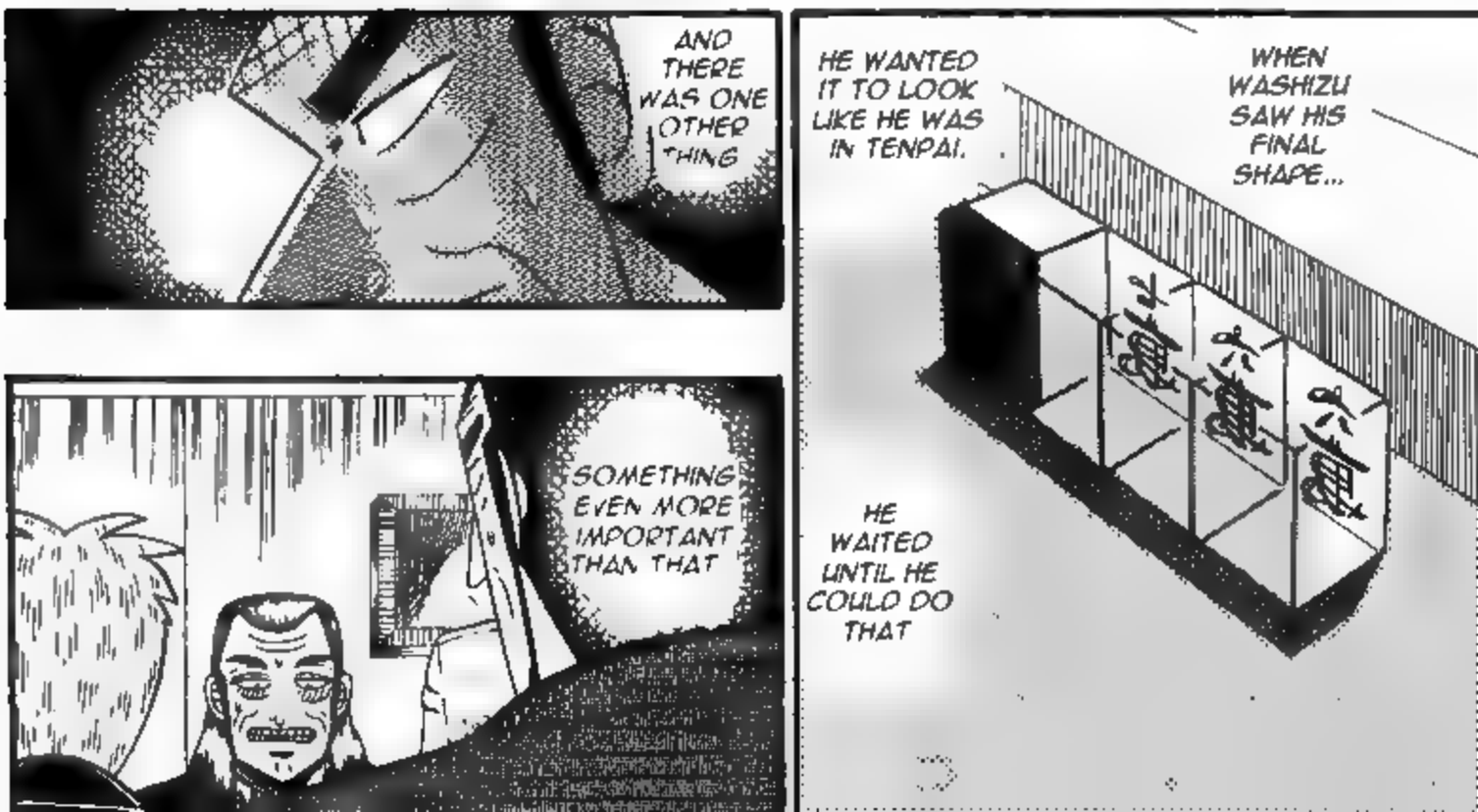
"Let me call on the Ton, Chun, and 1-man"!
PON!
THE OPPOR-TUNITY HAD AR-RIVED!
PON!
PON!

Three back-to-back calls!
In mere moments, Akagi makes...
But looking at this hand from Washizu's perspective...
With these three calls he reaches 1-shanten

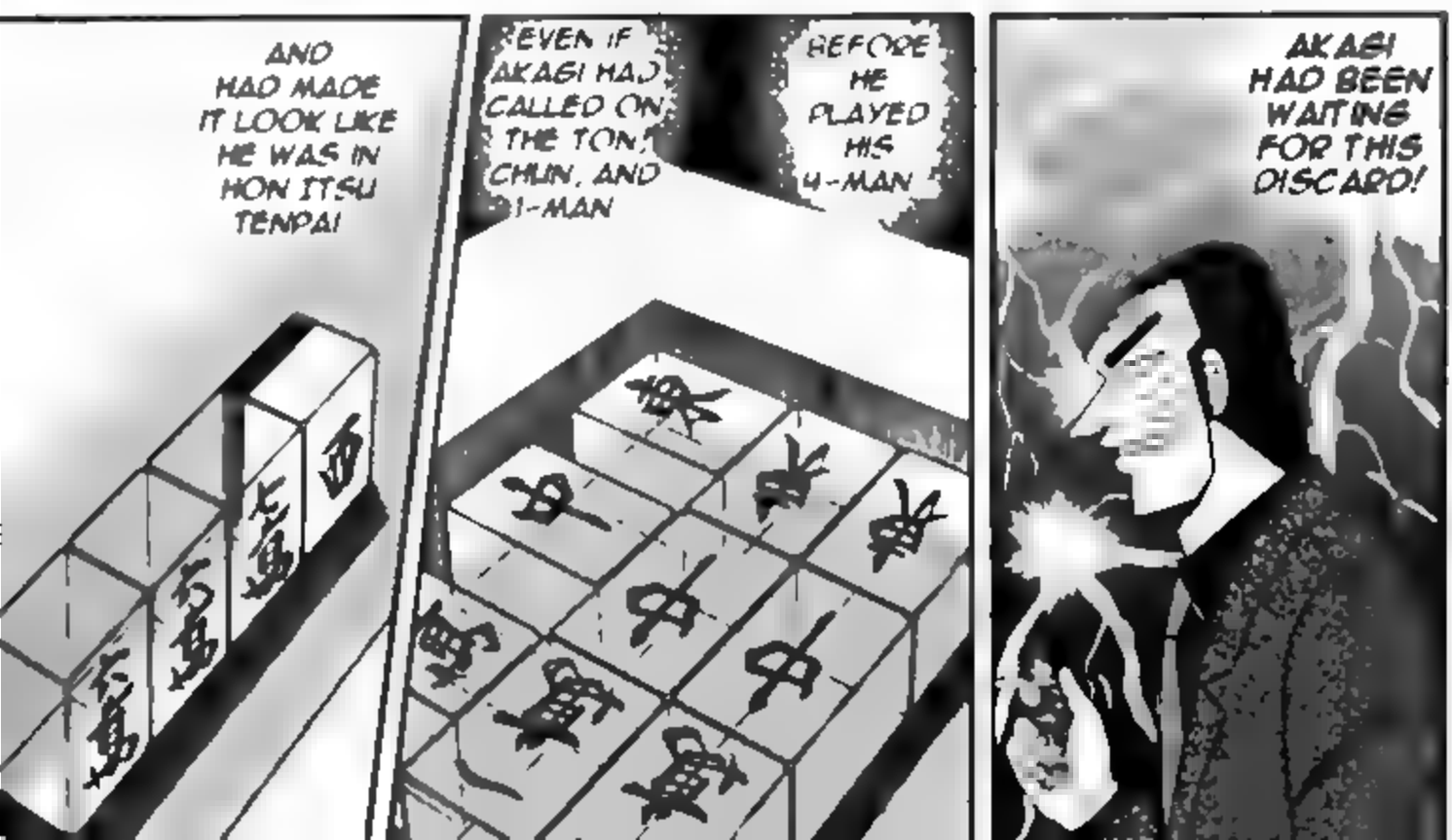

It looks like this!
I GET IT!
TO BRING ABOUT THIS EXACT SITUATION!
AKAGI WAITED ALL THIS TIME
IS WHAT AKAGI WAS AIMING FOR!
SO THIS...
ERRGH !
AHH ...!


THERE WERE TWO THINGS HE WAS WAITING FOR
AND WAITED FOR A CHANCE!
BUT HE HELD BACK HIS TON, CHUN, AND 1-MAN...
HE COULD HAVE CALLED ON THEM AT ANY POINT...


IN OTHER WORDS..
HE WANTED TO MAKE IT HARD FOR HIS OPPONENT TO DEAL ANY OF HIS MANZU.
FIRST, EVEN IF HE COULDN'T MAKE IT TO TENPAI...


AND THERE WAS ONE OTHER THING
HE WANTED IT TO LOOK LIKE HE WAS IN TENPAI.
WHEN WASHIZU SAW HIS FINAL SHAPE...
SOMETHING EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT
HE WAITED UNTIL HE COULD DO THAT

WASHIZU'S DISCARD OF 4-MAN!!


AND HAD MADE IT LOOK LIKE HE WAS IN HON ITSU TENPAI
EVEN IF AKAGI HAD CALLED ON THE TON, CHUN, AND 1-MAN
BEFORE HE PLAYED HIS 4-MAN
AKAGI HAD BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DISCARD!

WASHIZU WOULDN'T BE HELD BACK AT ALL WITH JUST THAT.

ALL HE'D HAVE TO DO WAS KEEP THE 4- AND 6-MAN IN HIS HAND.

WASHIZU WOULDN'T BE IN MUCH TROUBLE AT ALL.

NOW THAT THE 4-MAN HAS BEEN DROPPED

NOW THAT HE'S BROKEN UP THAT [illegible]

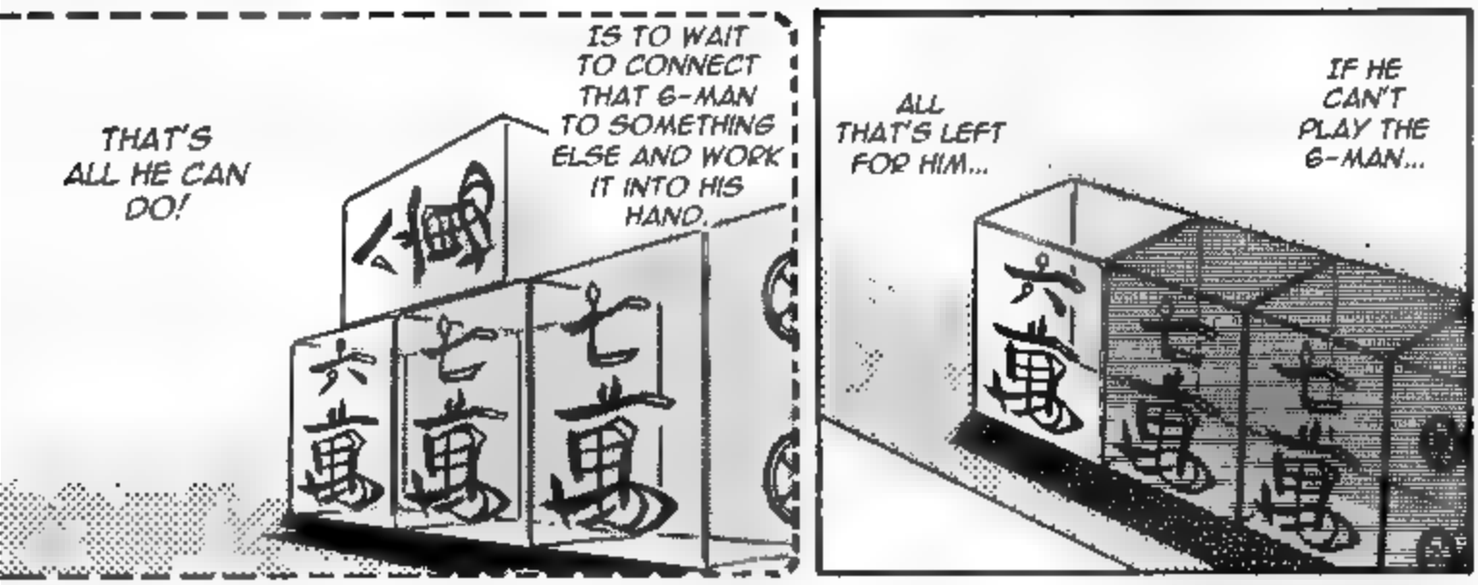
BUT

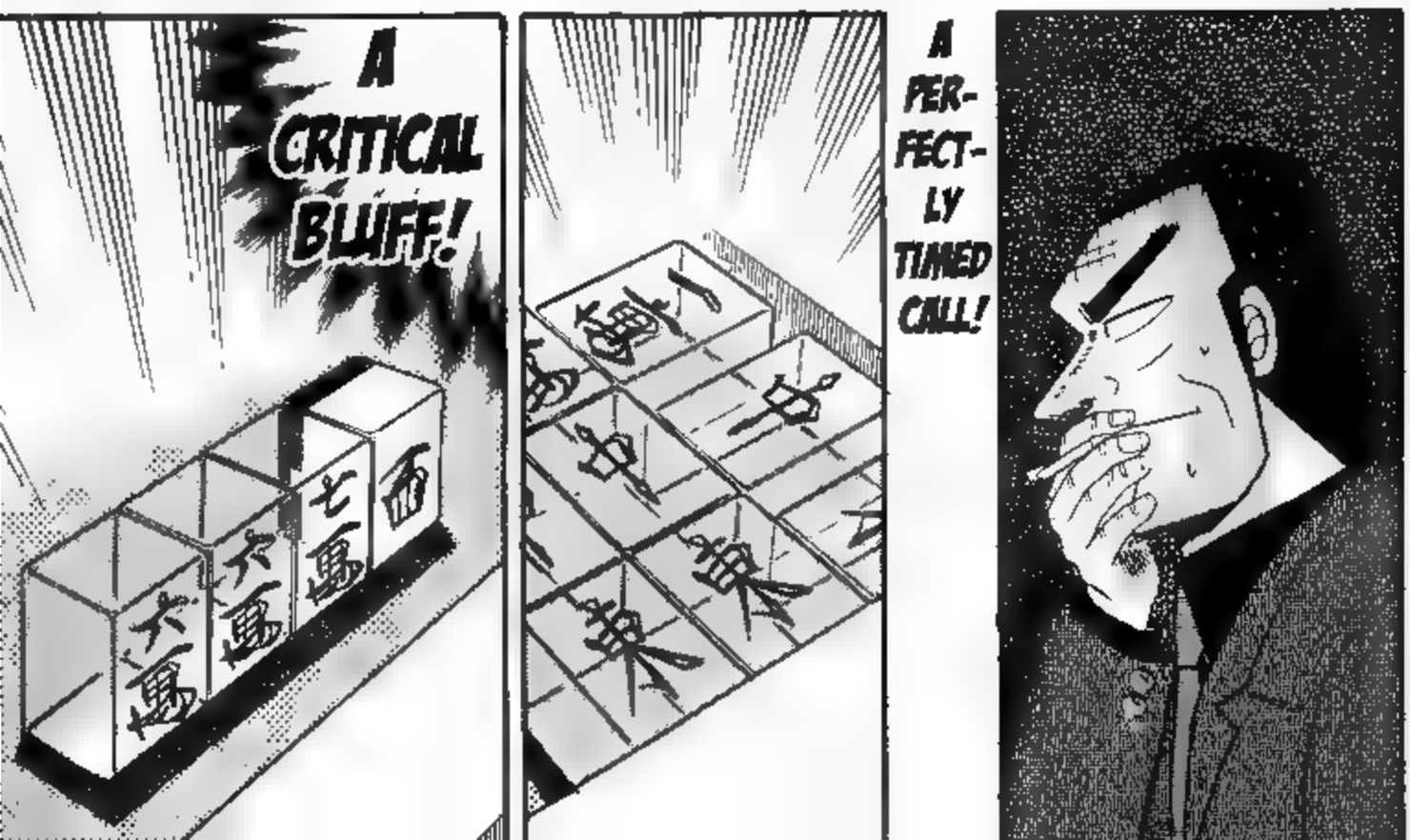
AND ONCE IT BE-COMES HARD TO PLAY

AND MAKE THAT 6-MAN HARD TO PLAY

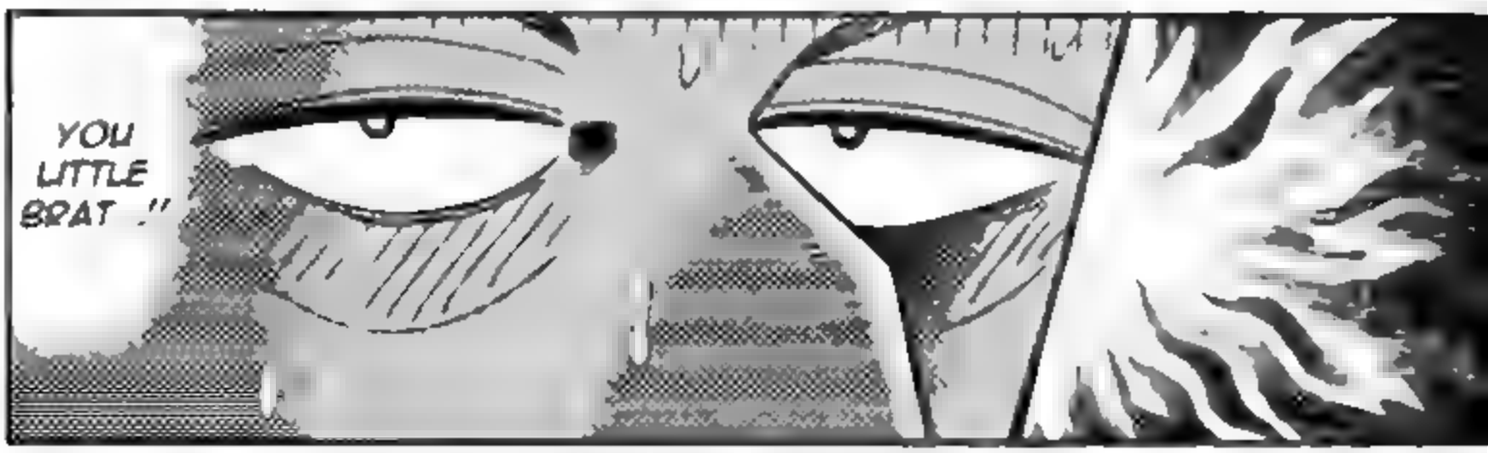
AKAGI CAN QUICKLY CHANGE THE SITUA-TION

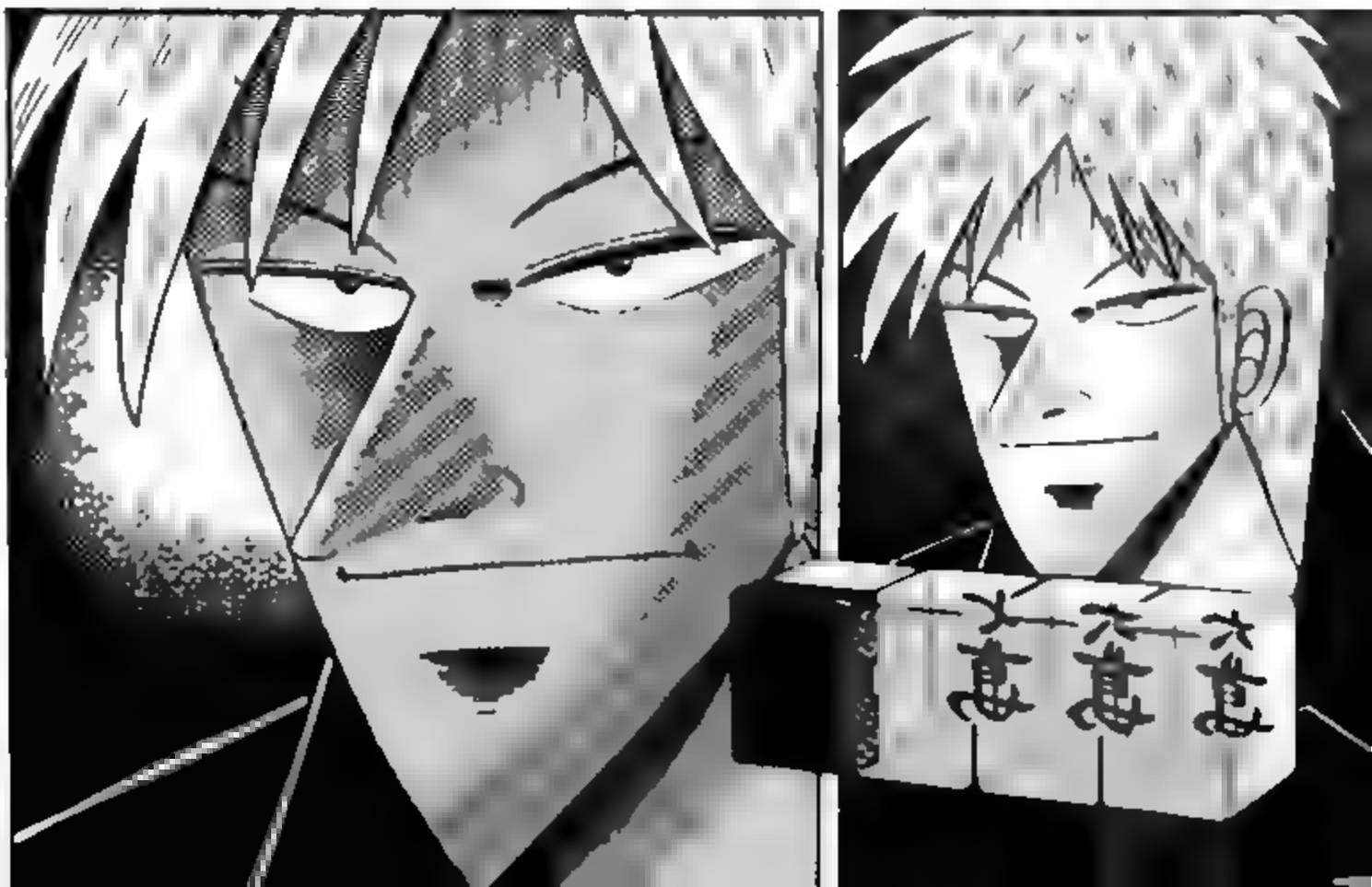
NOW THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED, WASHIZU WILL BE RESTRAINED FOR THE FIRST TIME.
THAT'S WHEN WASHIZU WILL BE IN TROUBLE!


THAT'S ALL HE CAN DO!
IS TO WAIT TO CONNECT THAT 6-MAN TO SOMETHING ELSE AND WORK IT INTO HIS HAND.
ALL THAT'S LEFT FOR HIM...
IF HE CAN'T PLAY THE 6-MAN...


A CRITICAL BLUFF!
A PER-FECT-LY TIMED CALL!

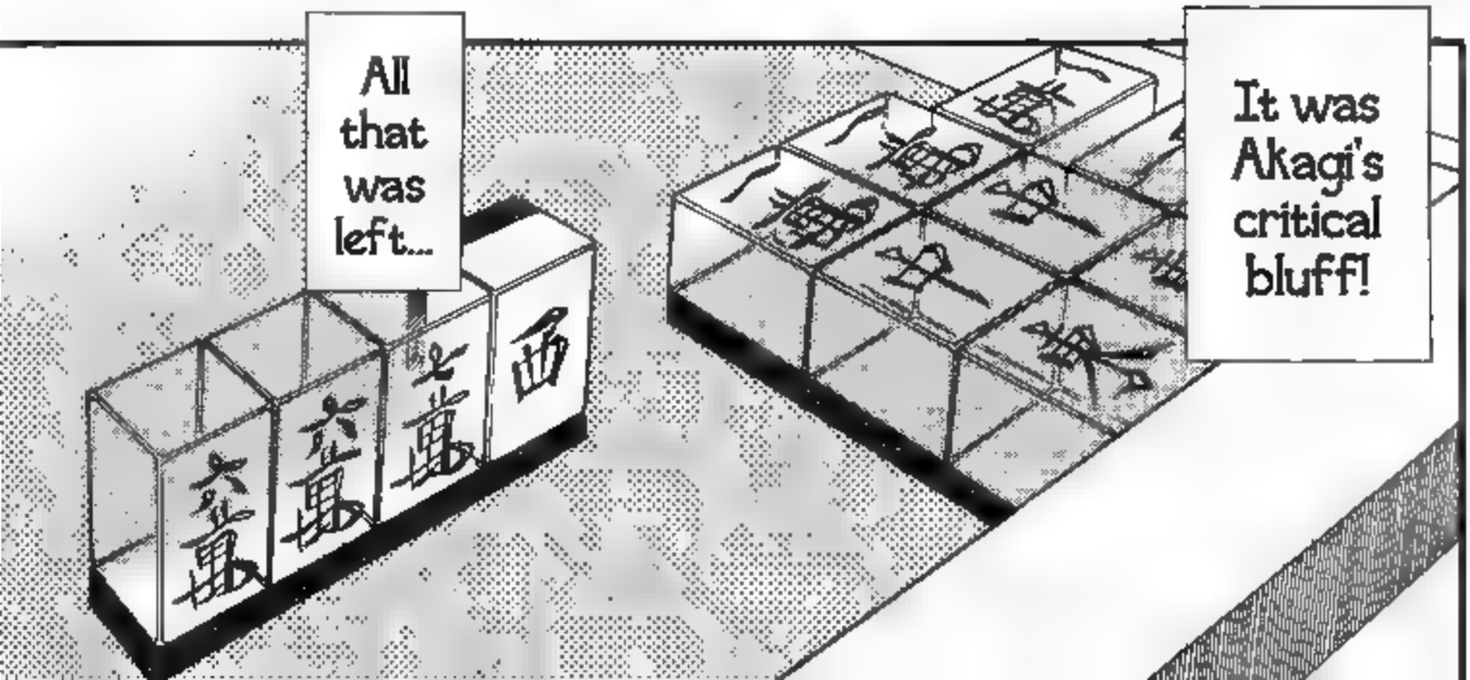
IS TO SEE IF THIS WILL WORK ON WASHI-ZU!!
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT!


YOU LITTLE BRAT .!!



……
ざわ…

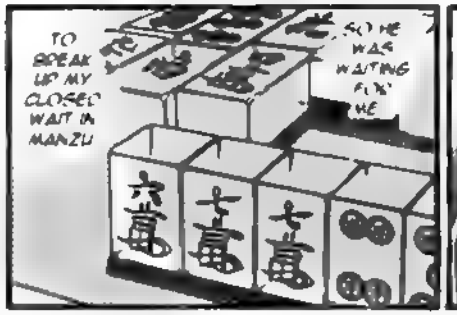
ざわ…
ざわ…

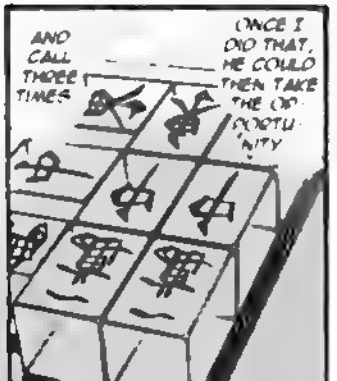

All that was left...
It was Akagi's critical bluff!

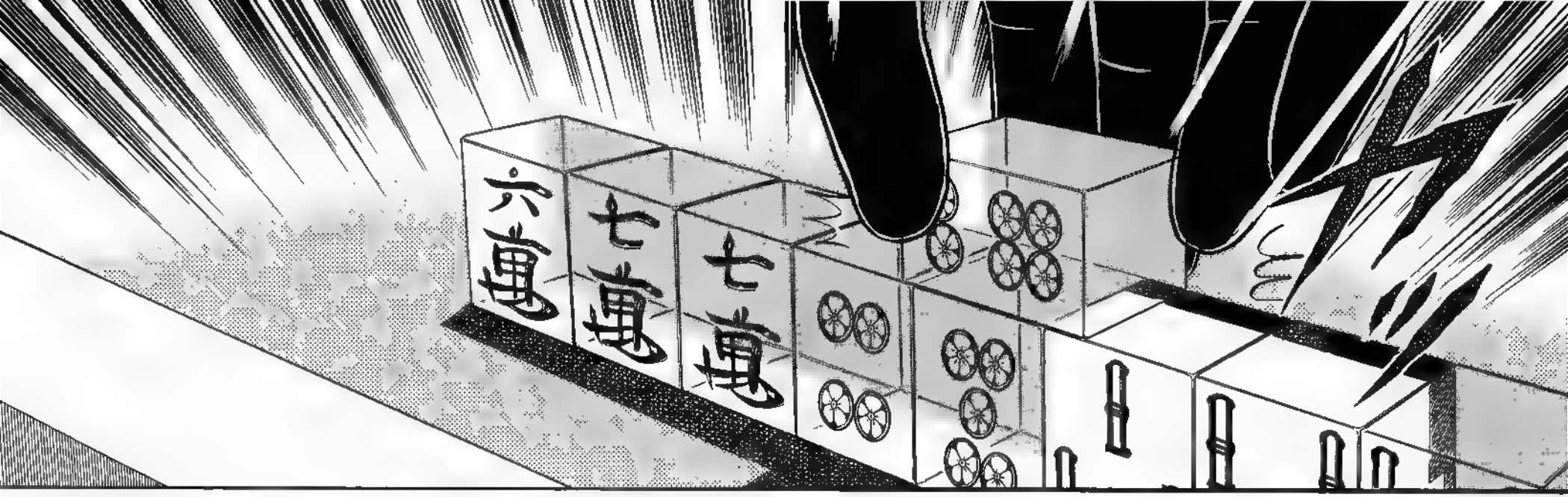
WAS TO SEE IF IT WOULD WORK ON WASHI-ZU...!!

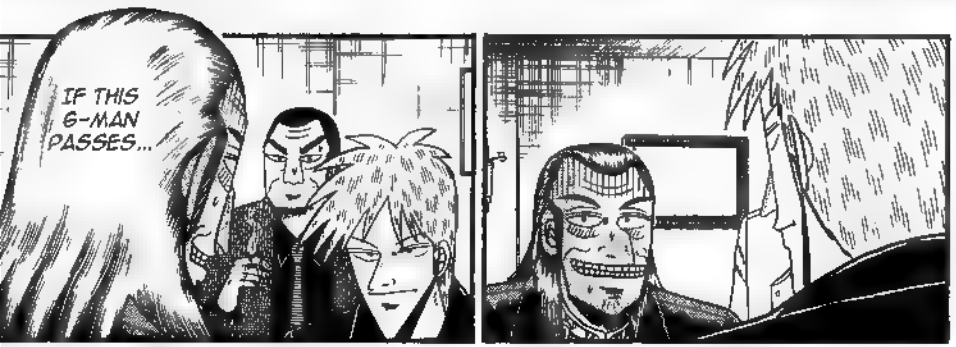
.....

CHAPTER 79-
第79話 勝機
ODDS OF VICTORY

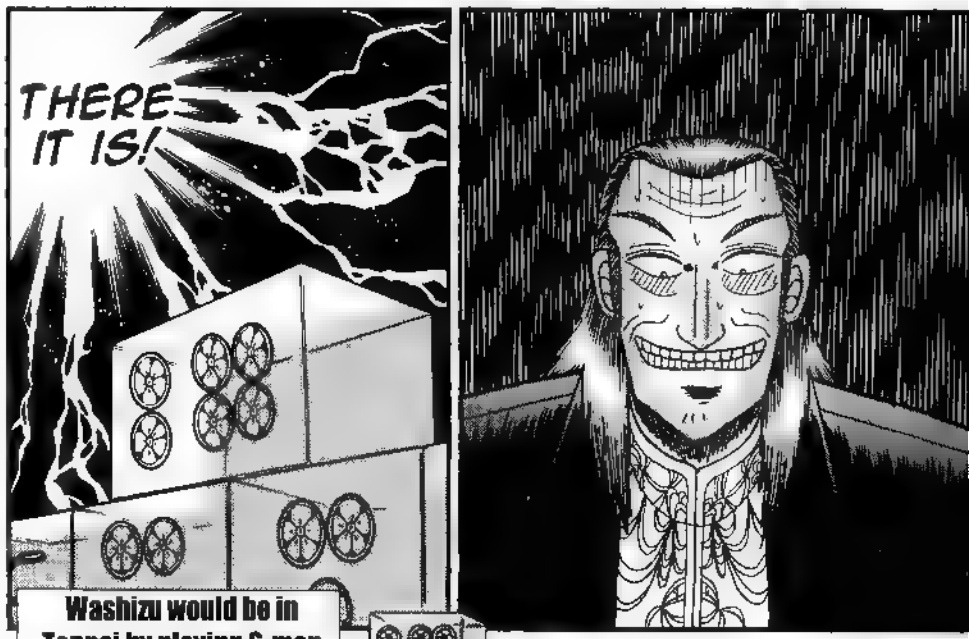






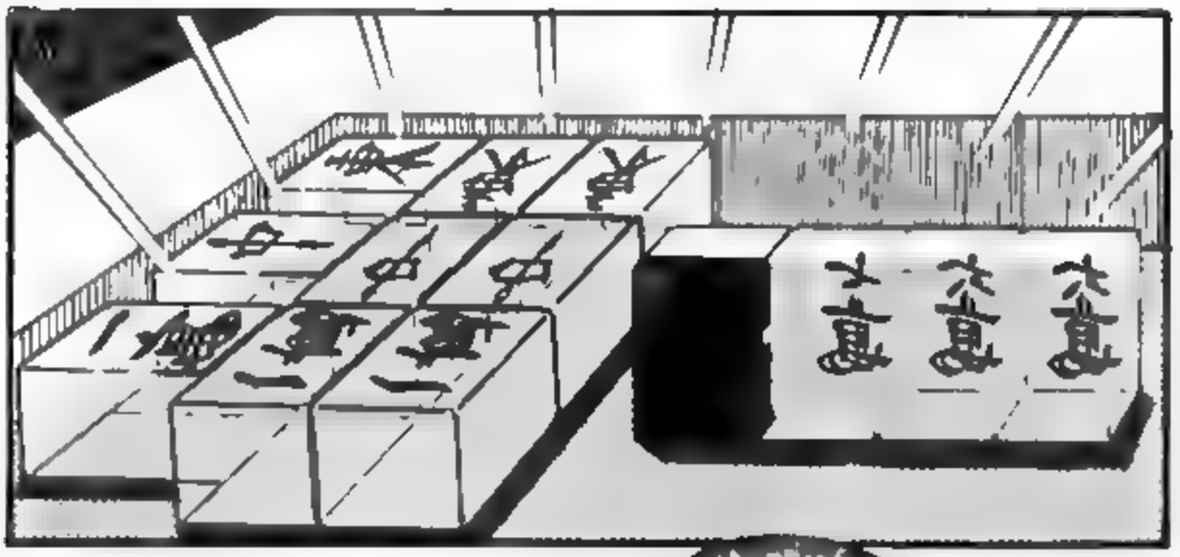


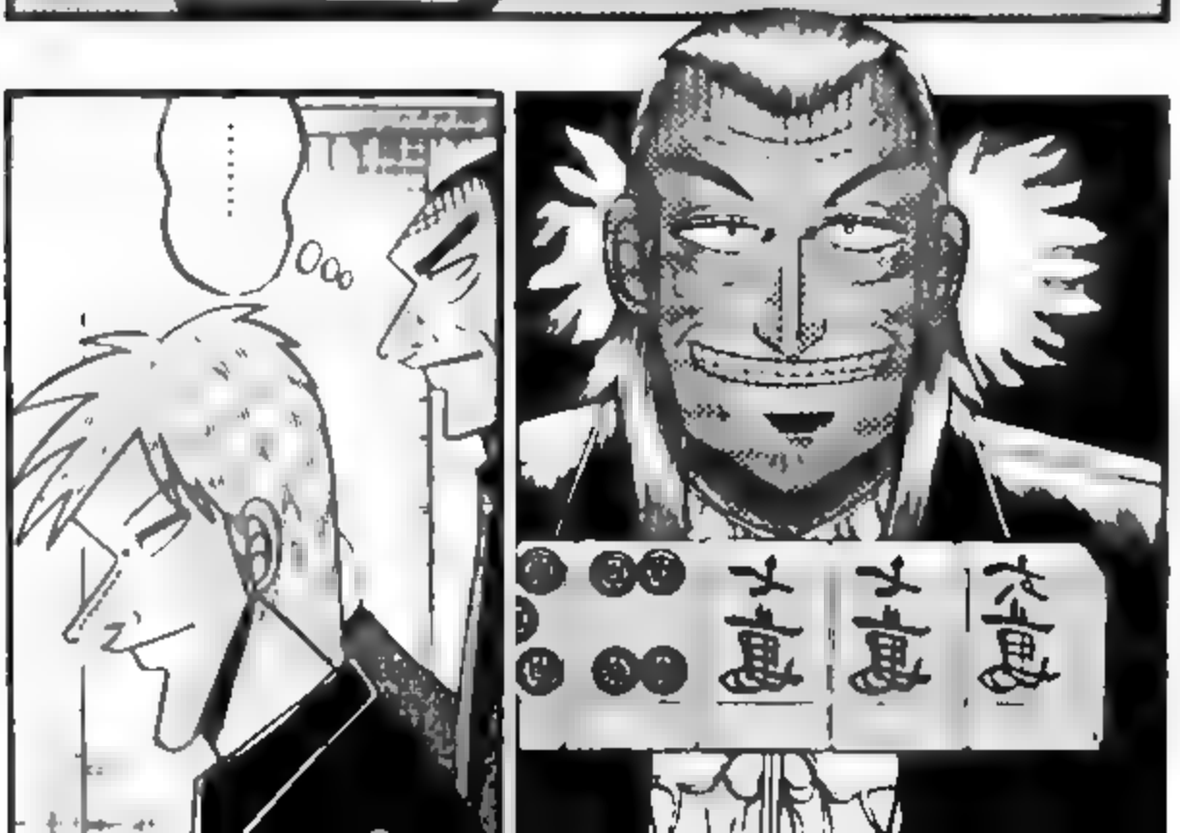
I WIN!
SO LONG AS THIS 6-MAN PASSES...
I CAN WIN THIS STRAIGHT AWAY!
SINCE SUZUKI TO MY RIGHT HAS A 5-SOU...
I'LL BE IN TENPAI ON A 2, 5, AND 8-SOU WAIT!

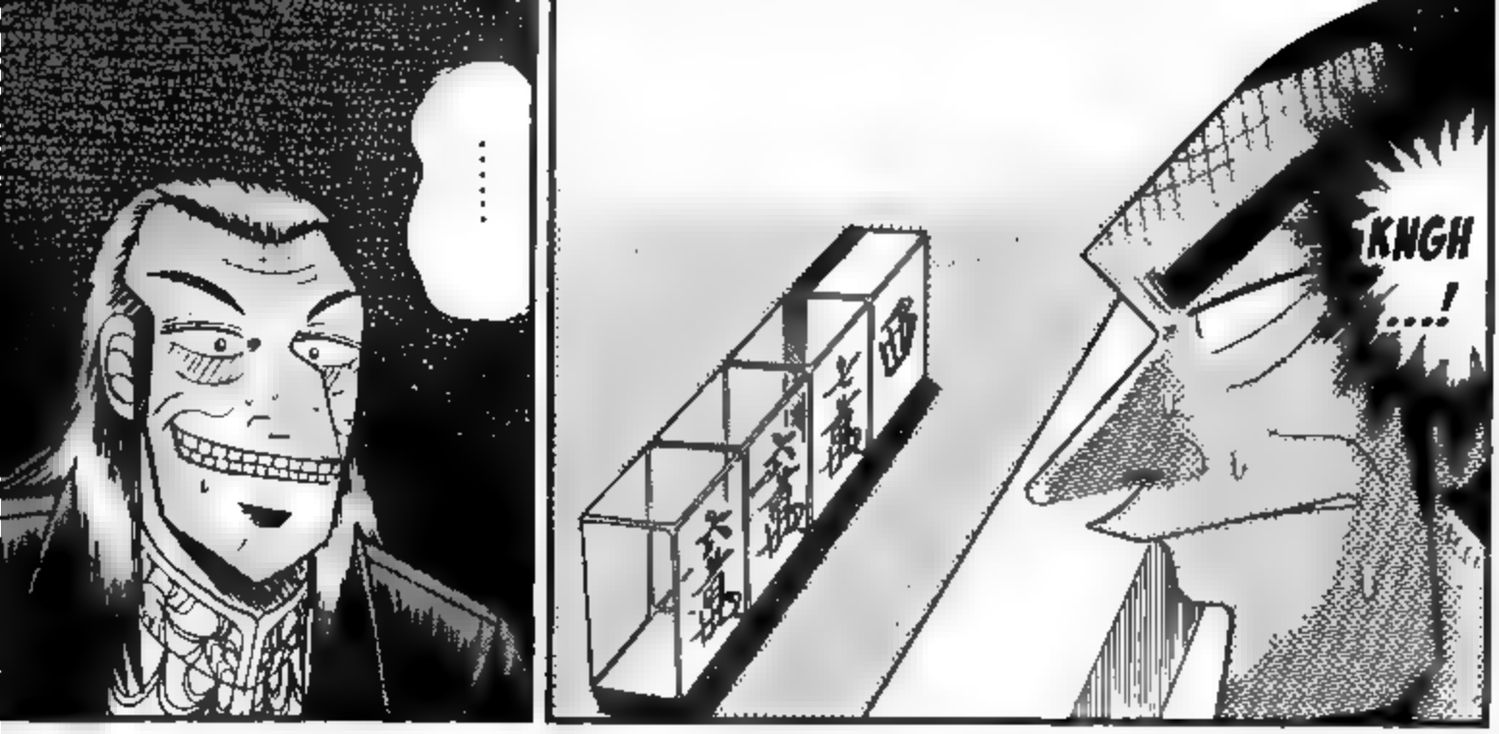


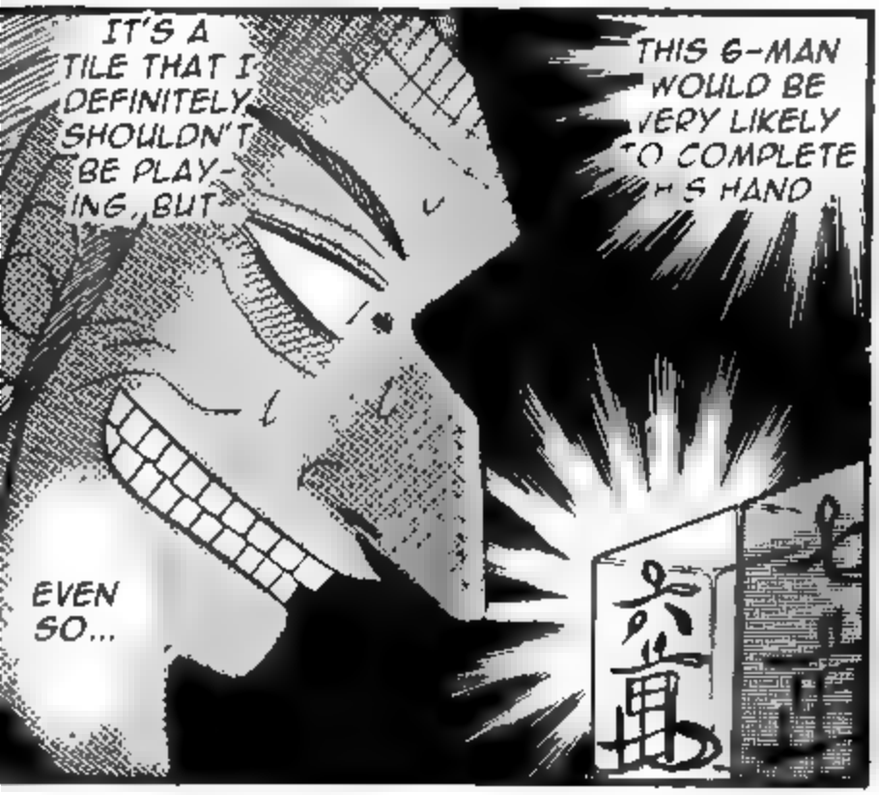
Washizu would be in Tenpai by playing 6-man

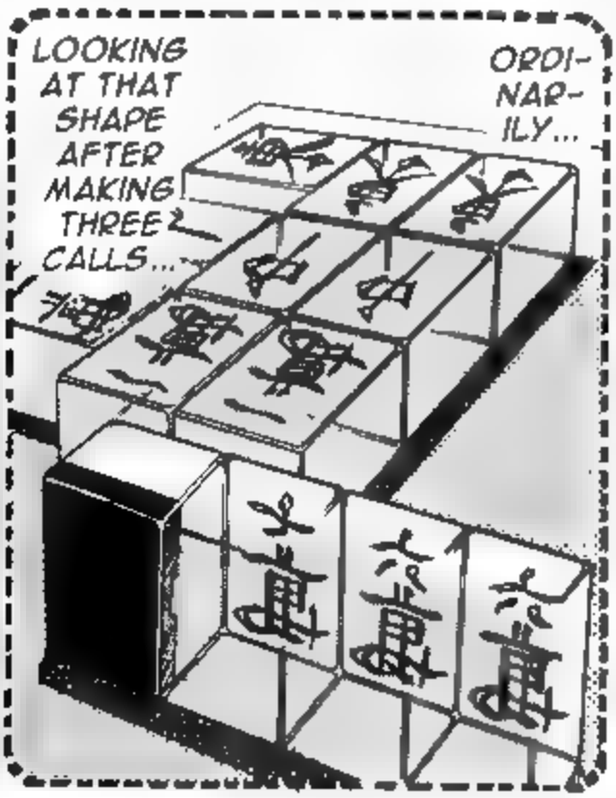
I'LL WIN BY PLAYING THIS 6-MAN!!





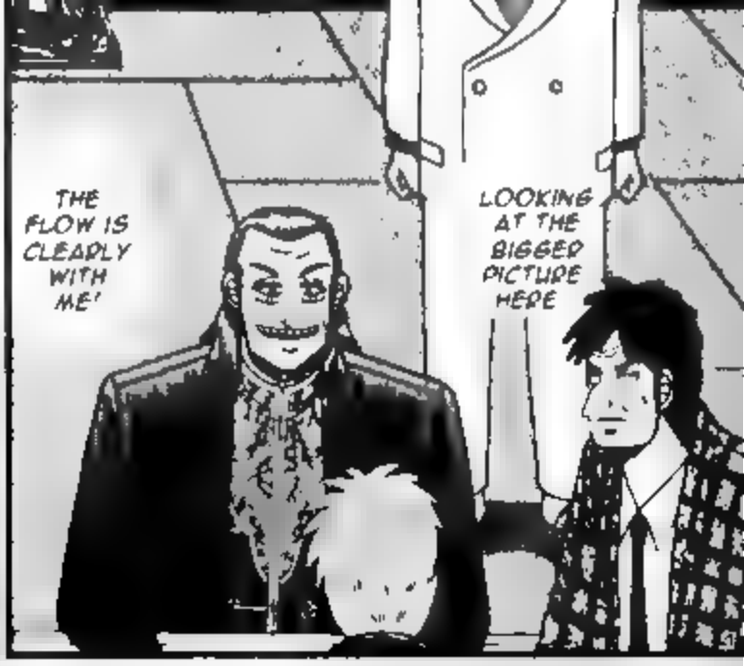

.....
KNGH ...!

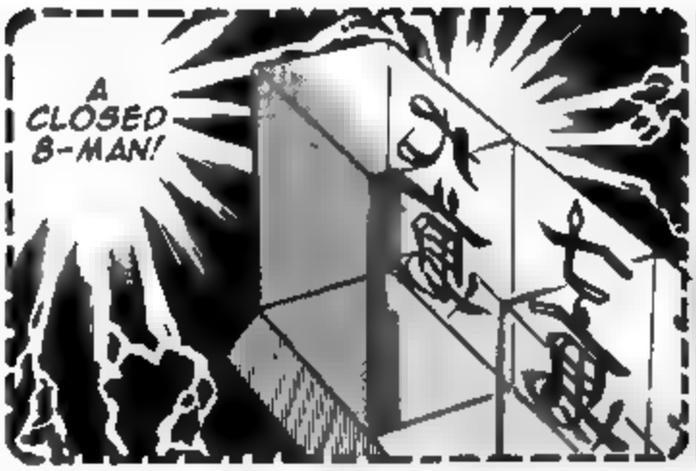

IT'S A TILE THAT I DEFINITELY SHOULDN'T BE PLAY-ING, BUT
THIS 6-MAN WOULD BE VERY LIKELY TO COMPLETE HIS HAND
EVEN SO...


LOOKING AT THAT SHAPE AFTER MAKING THREE CALLS...
ORDI-NAR-ILY...

I CAN PLAY IT!

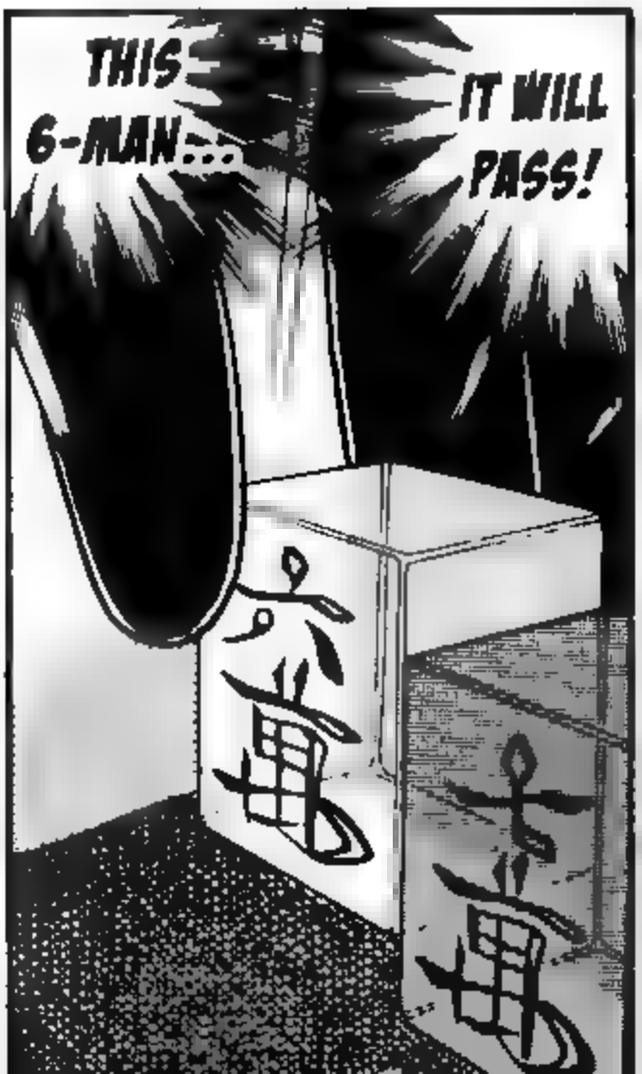
WHEN THE FLOW IS ON MY SIDE!
LIKE I'D ACTUALLY NEED TO PLAY AKAGI'S WINNING TILE FOR TENPAI
六萬
七萬
八萬


THE FLOW IS CLEARLY WITH ME!
LOOKING AT THE BIGGER PICTURE HERE

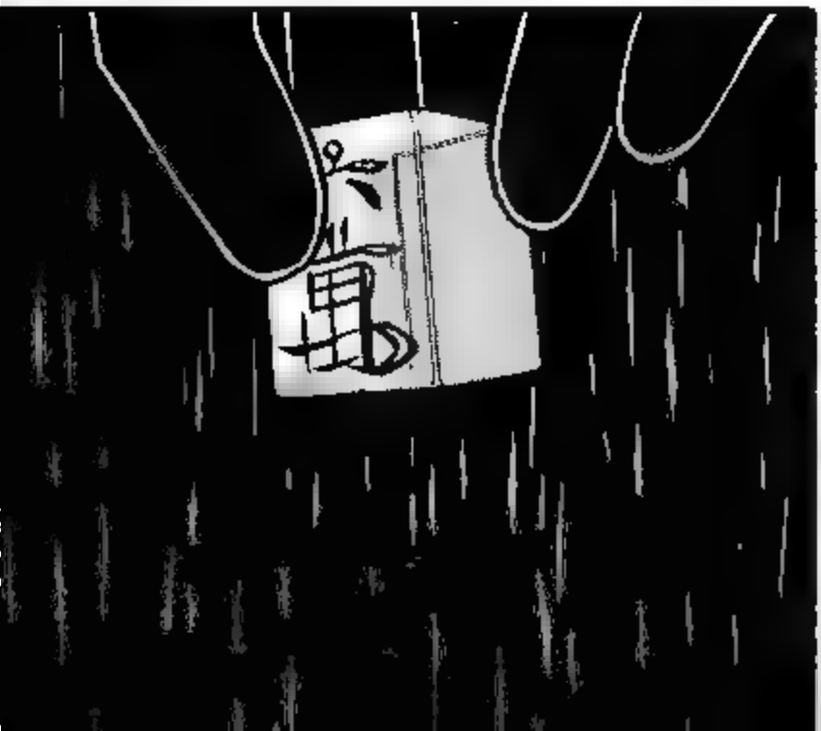

A CLOSED 8-MAN!

RIGHT NOW HE'S PROBABLY WAITING FOR

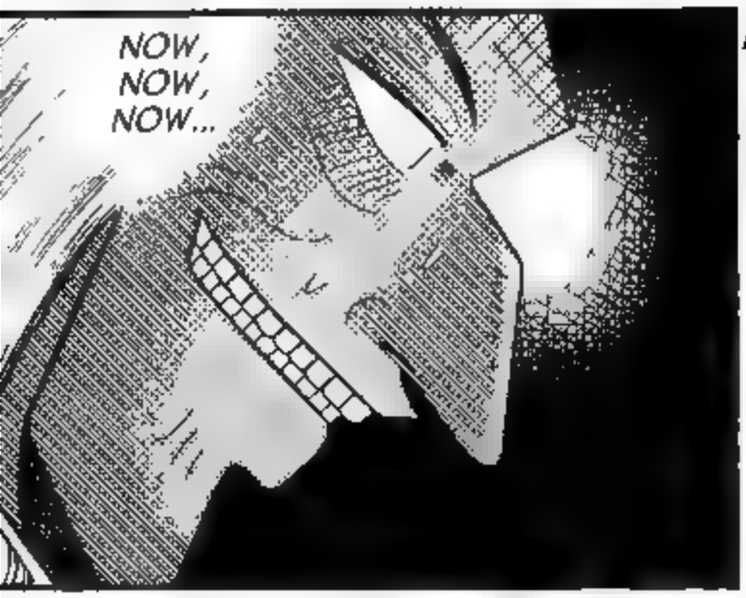
WILL PASS!!


THIS 6-MAN...
IT WILL PASS!

GGH
...!!



URGH..!!



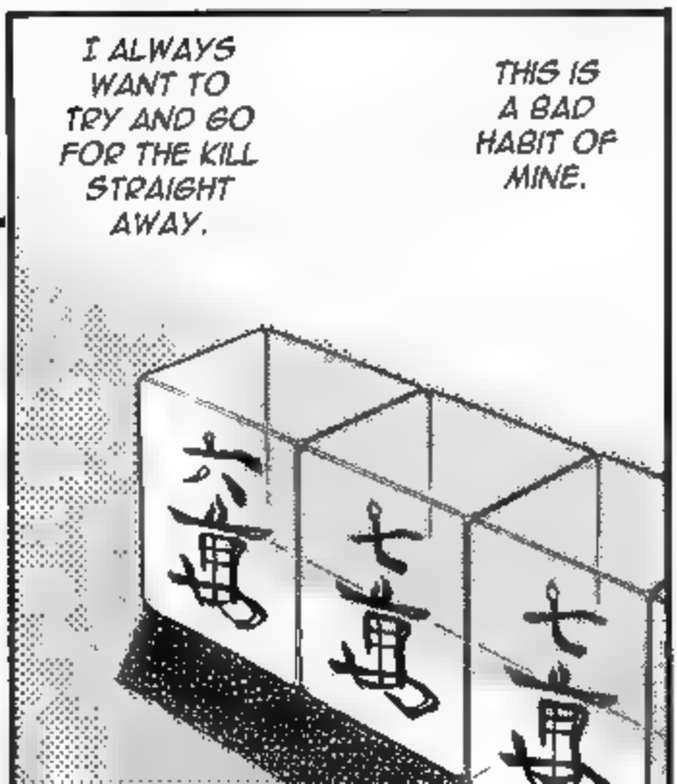
KHEH-HEH-HEH...

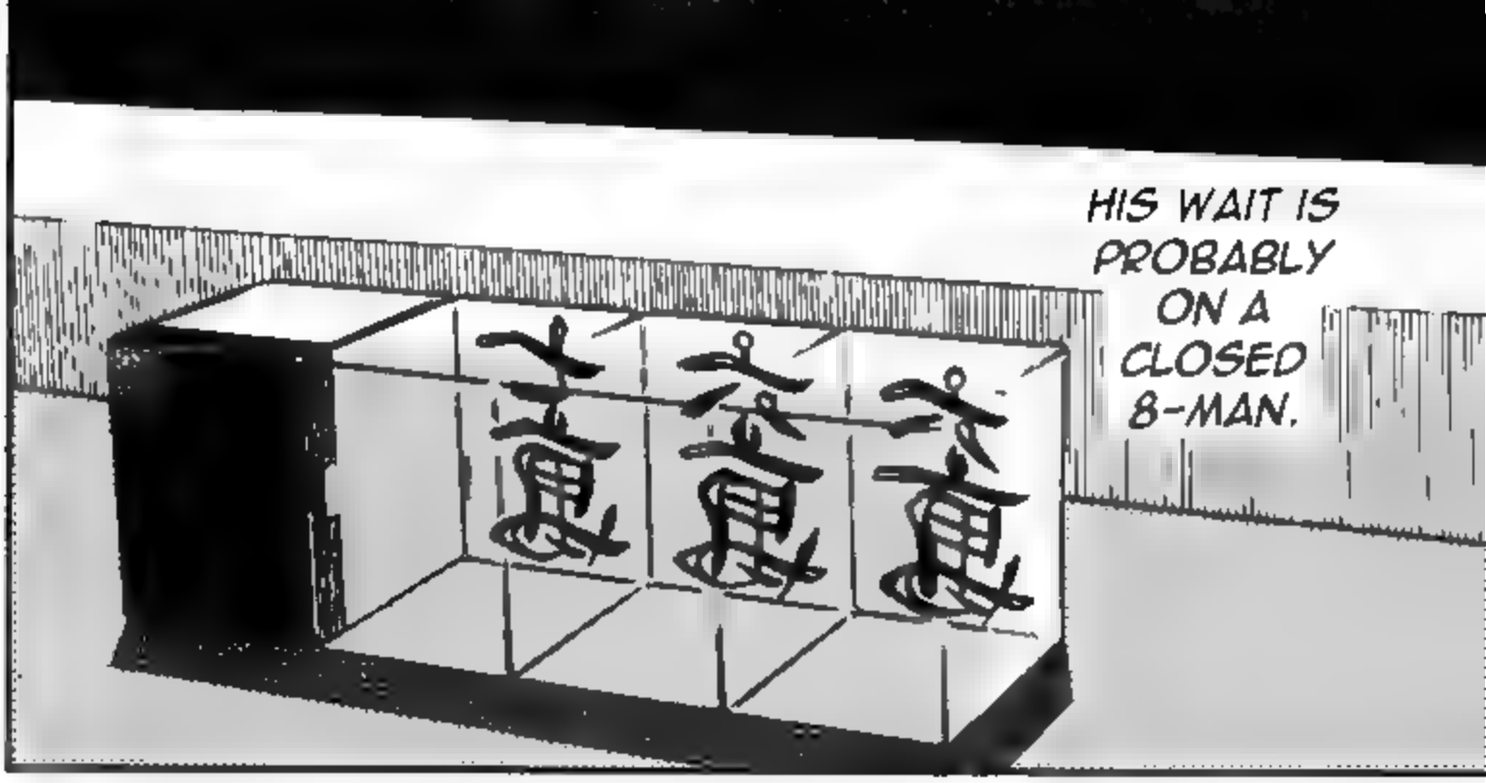
THERE'S NO NEED TO THROW HIM A BONE, HERE.

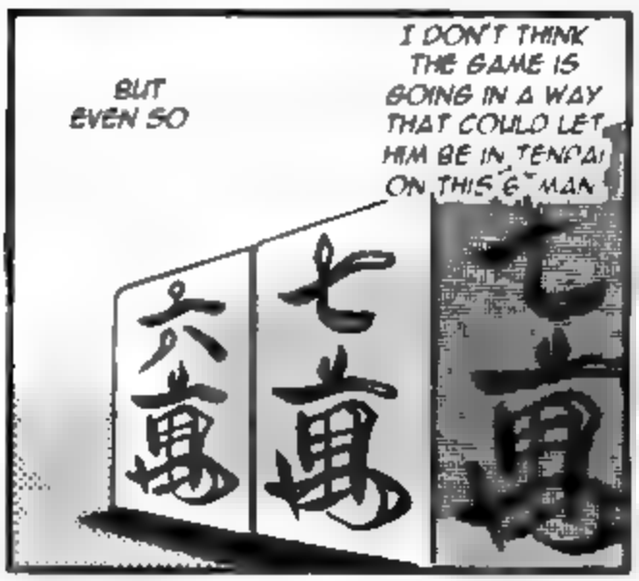
THINK-ING ABOUT IT A BIT MORE ...

I ALWAYS WANT TO TRY AND GO FOR THE KILL STRAIGHT AWAY.

THIS IS A BAD HABIT OF MINE.



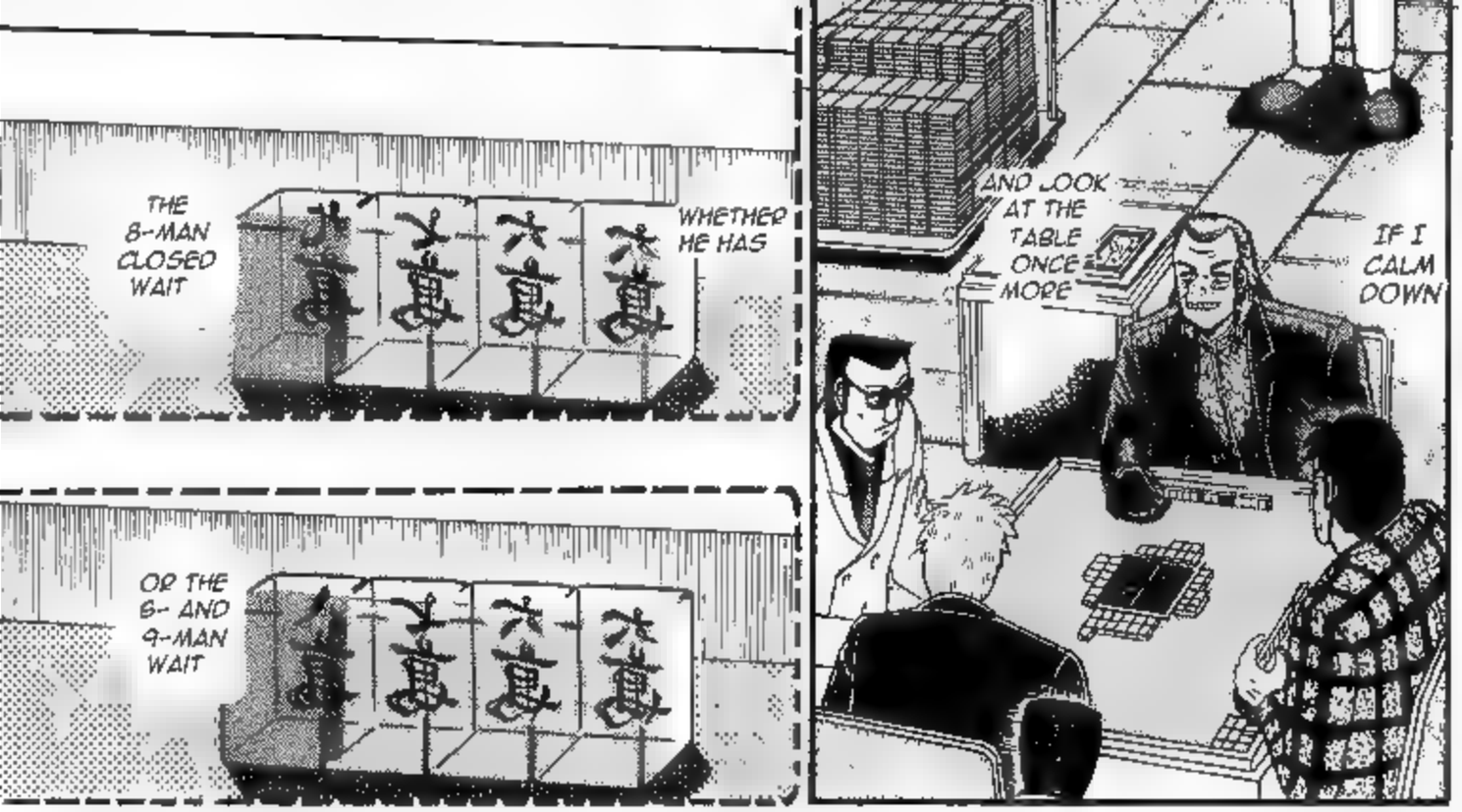

HIS WAIT IS PROBABLY ON A CLOSED 8-MAN.


BUT EVEN SO
I DON'T THINK THE GAME IS GOING IN A WAY THAT COULD LET HIM BE IN TENPAI ON THIS 6-MAN

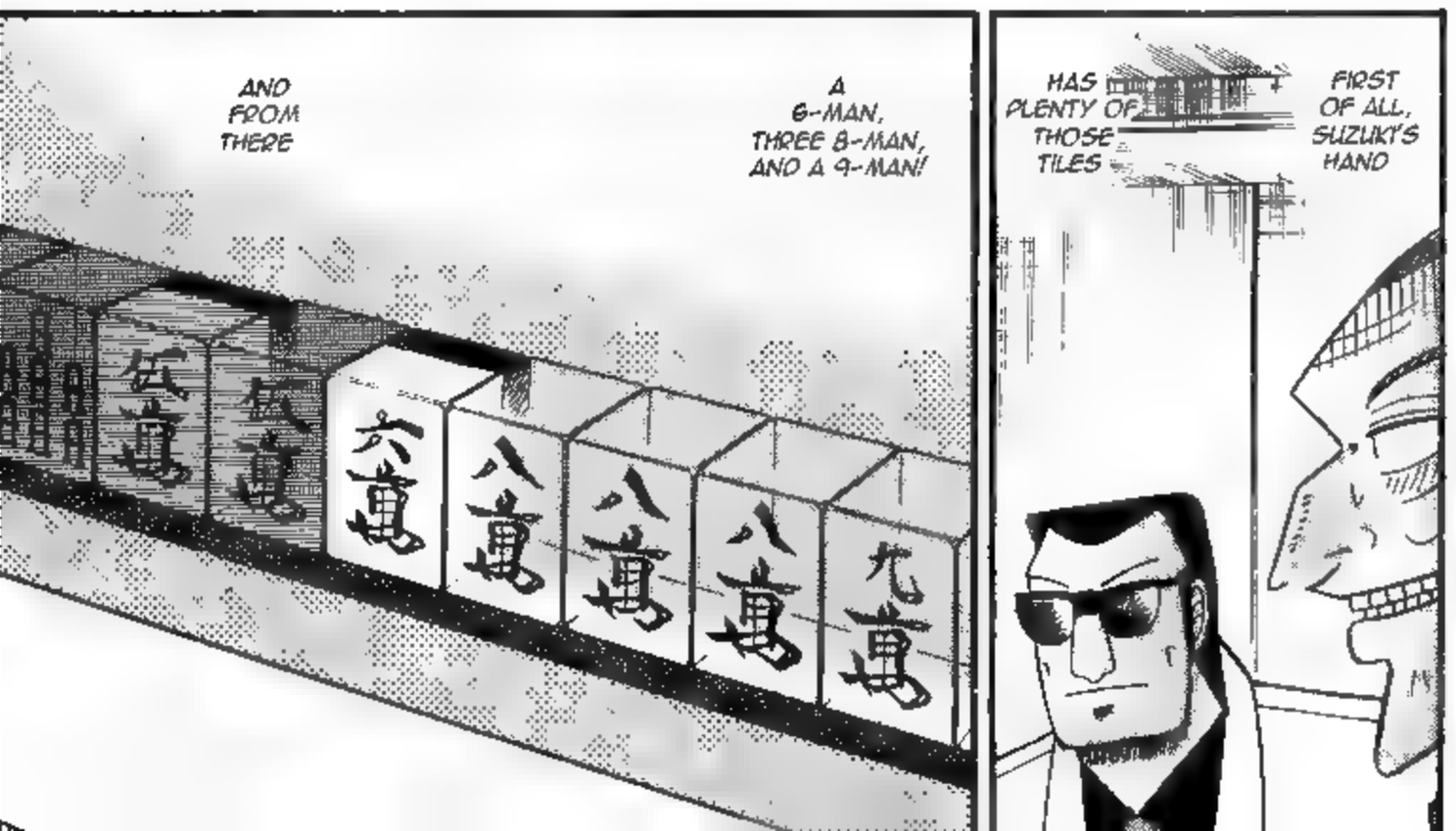
OR IT COULD ALSO JUST BE NOTEN, BUT

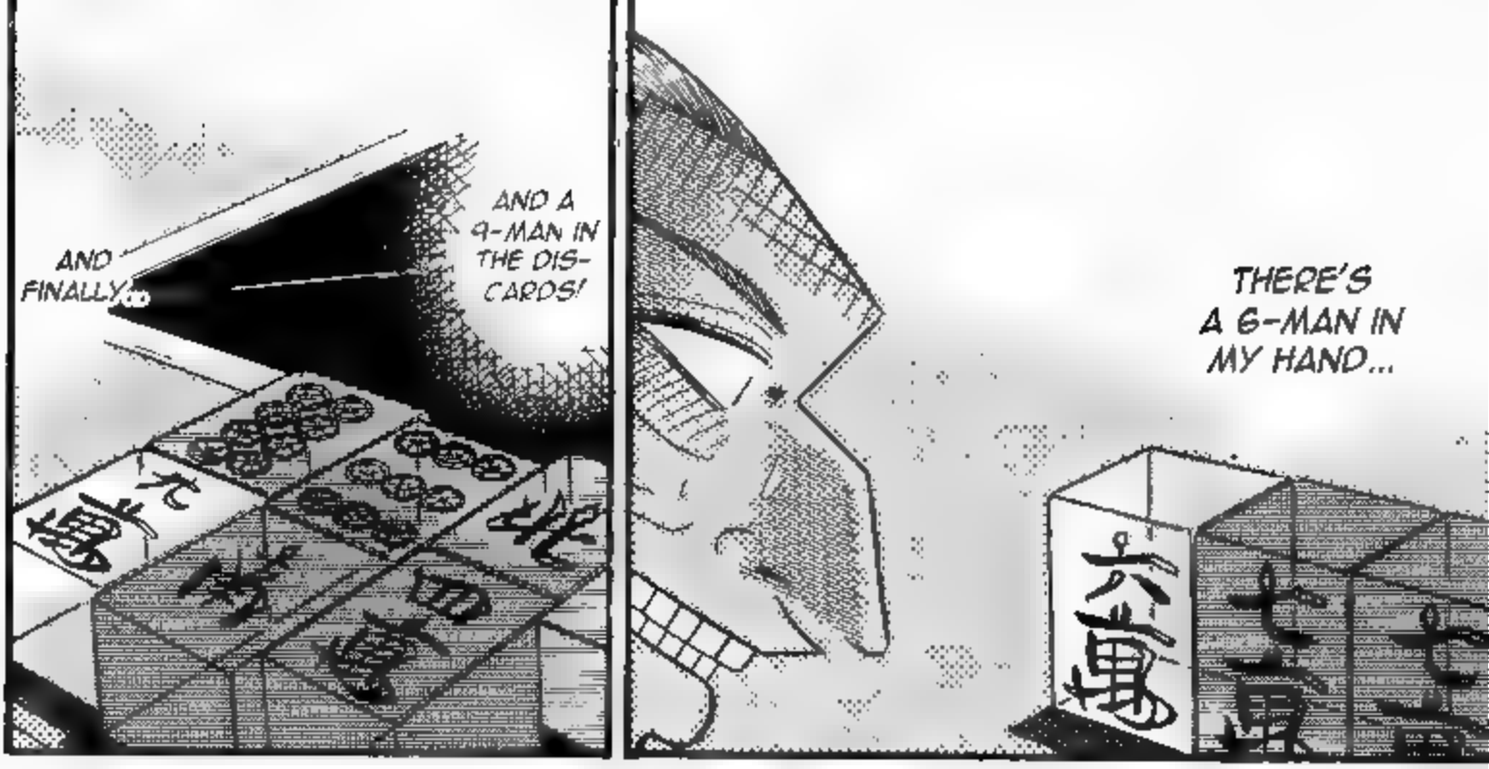
THERE IS NO NEED TO JUST PLAY IT FOR HIM HERE
SO IN THAT CASE

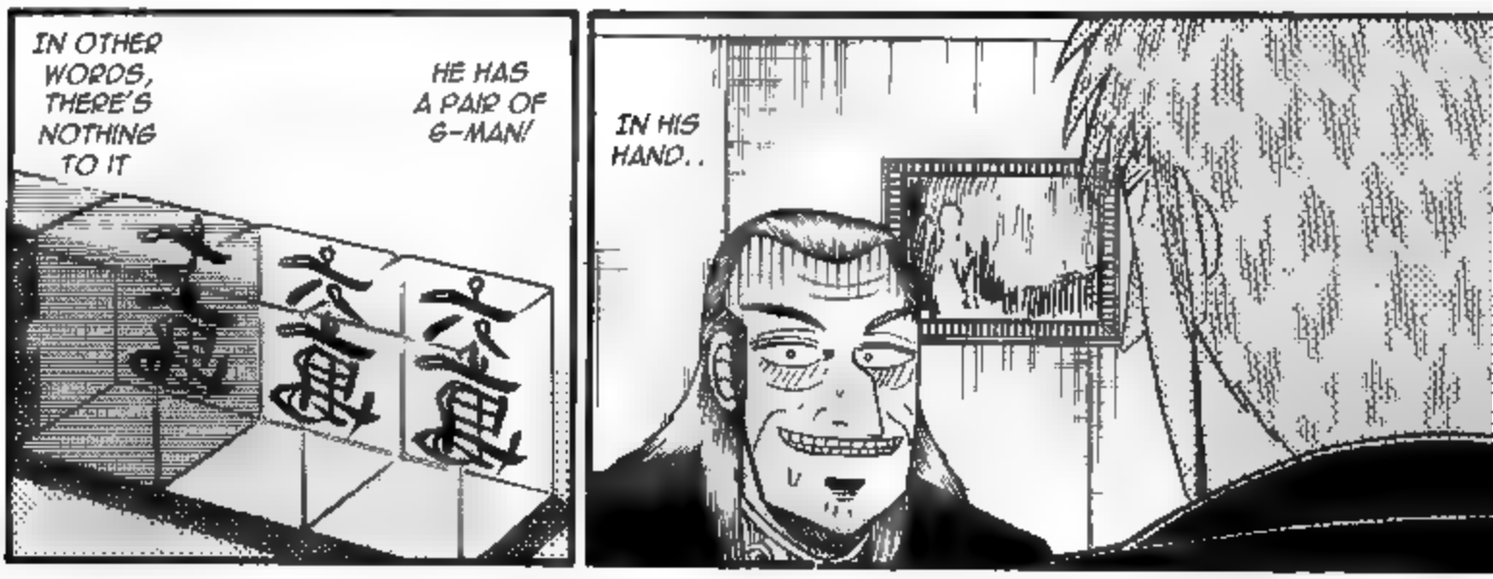
IT'S NOT GUARANTEED TO BE SAFE, EITHER!

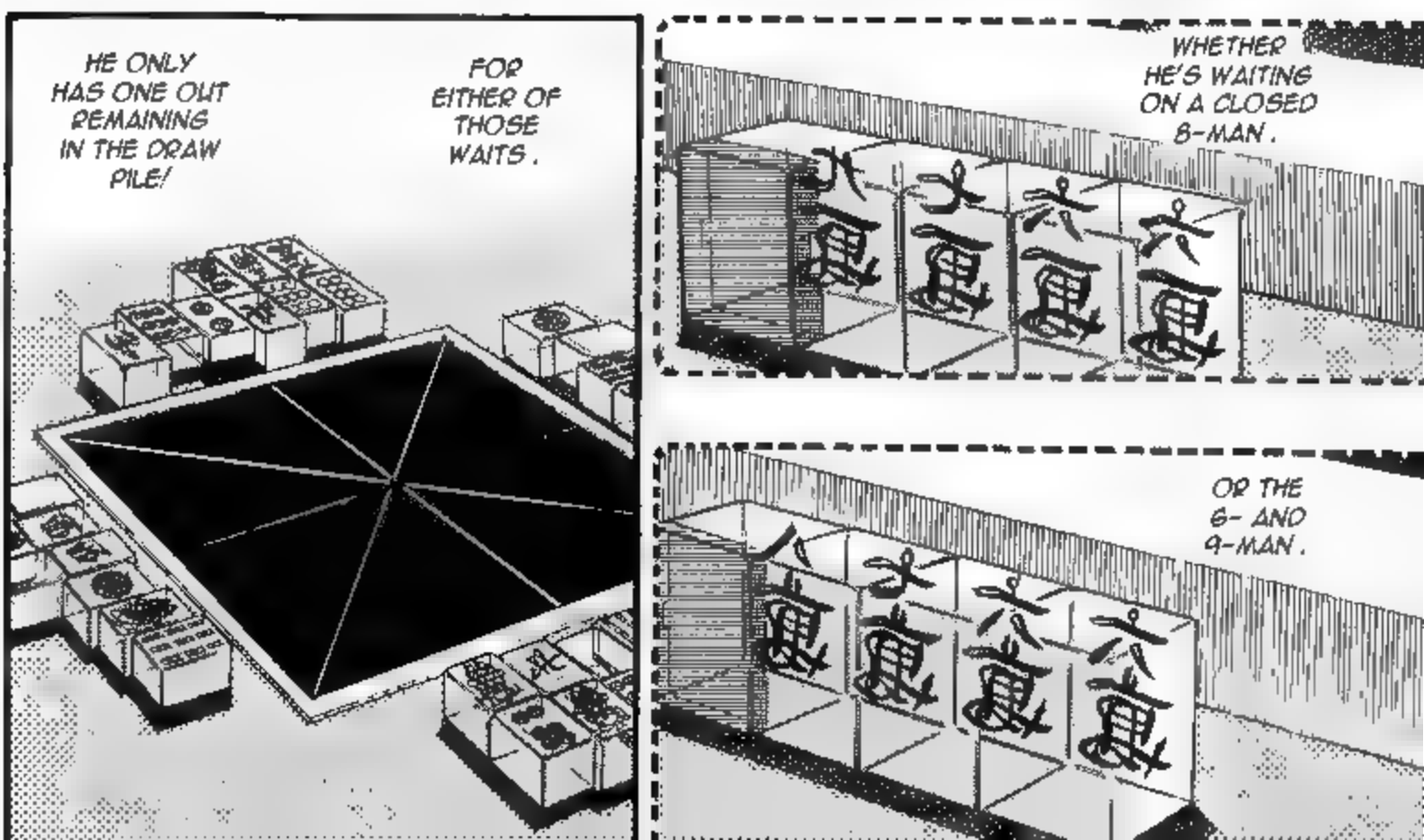

THE 8-MAN CLOSED WAIT
WHETHER HE HAS
AND LOOK AT THE TABLE ONCE MORE
IF I CALM DOWN
OR THE 6- AND 9-MAN WAIT

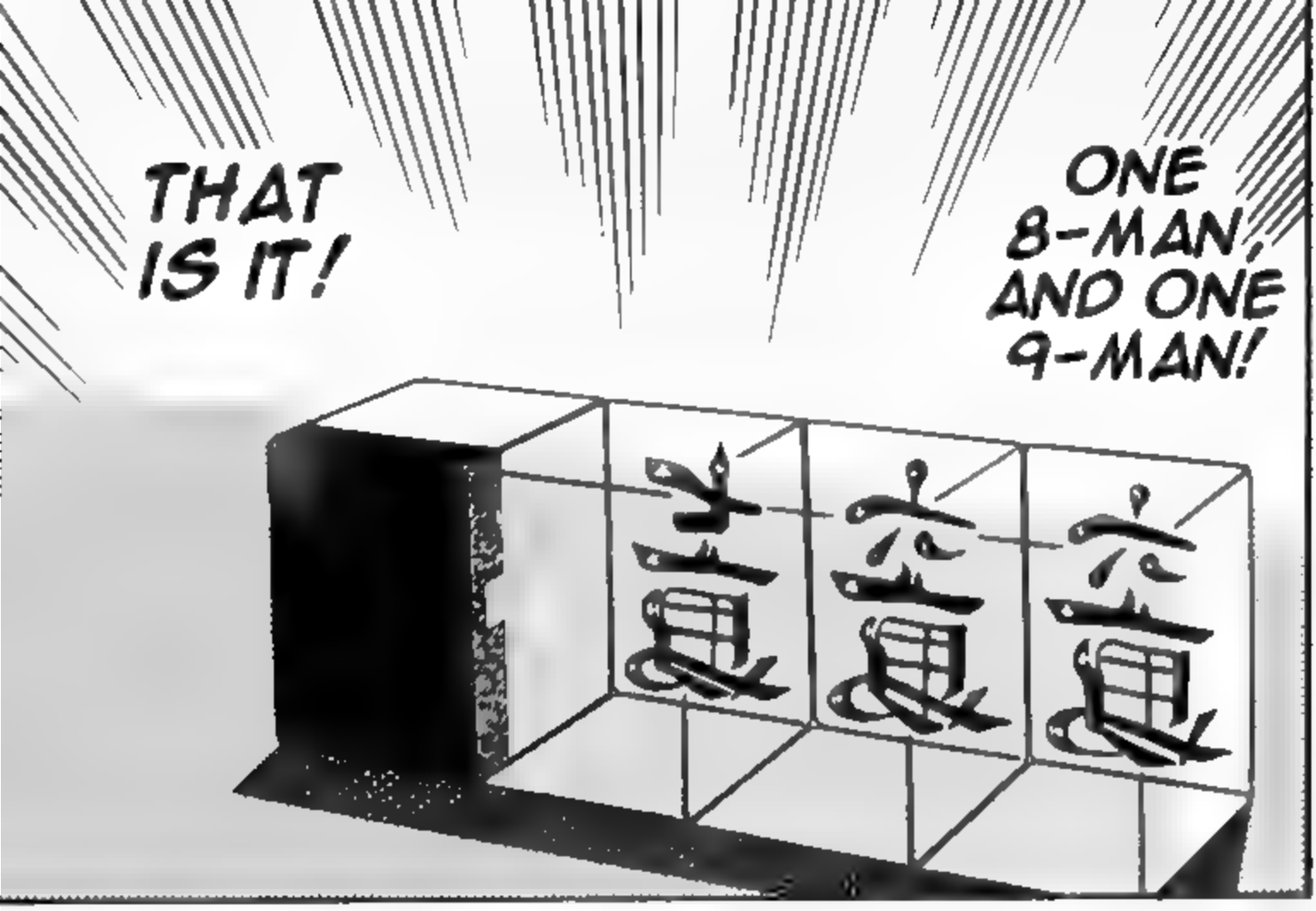
THERE ARE FEW WINNING TILES LEFT FOR HIM
EITHER WAY


AND FROM THERE
A 6-MAN, THREE 8-MAN, AND A 9-MAN!
HAS PLENTY OF THOSE TILES
FIRST OF ALL, SUZUKI'S HAND


AND FINALLY...
AND A 9-MAN IN THE DIS-CARDS!
THERE'S A 6-MAN IN MY HAND...

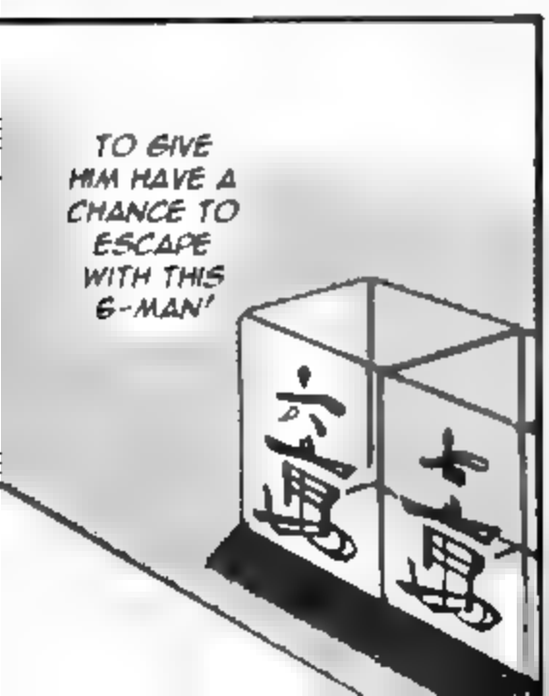

IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S NOTHING TO IT
HE HAS A PAIR OF 6-MAN!
IN HIS HAND..


HE ONLY HAS ONE OUT REMAINING IN THE DRAW PILE!
FOR EITHER OF THOSE WAITS.
WHETHER HE'S WAITING ON A CLOSED 6-MAN.
OR THE 6- AND 9-MAN.

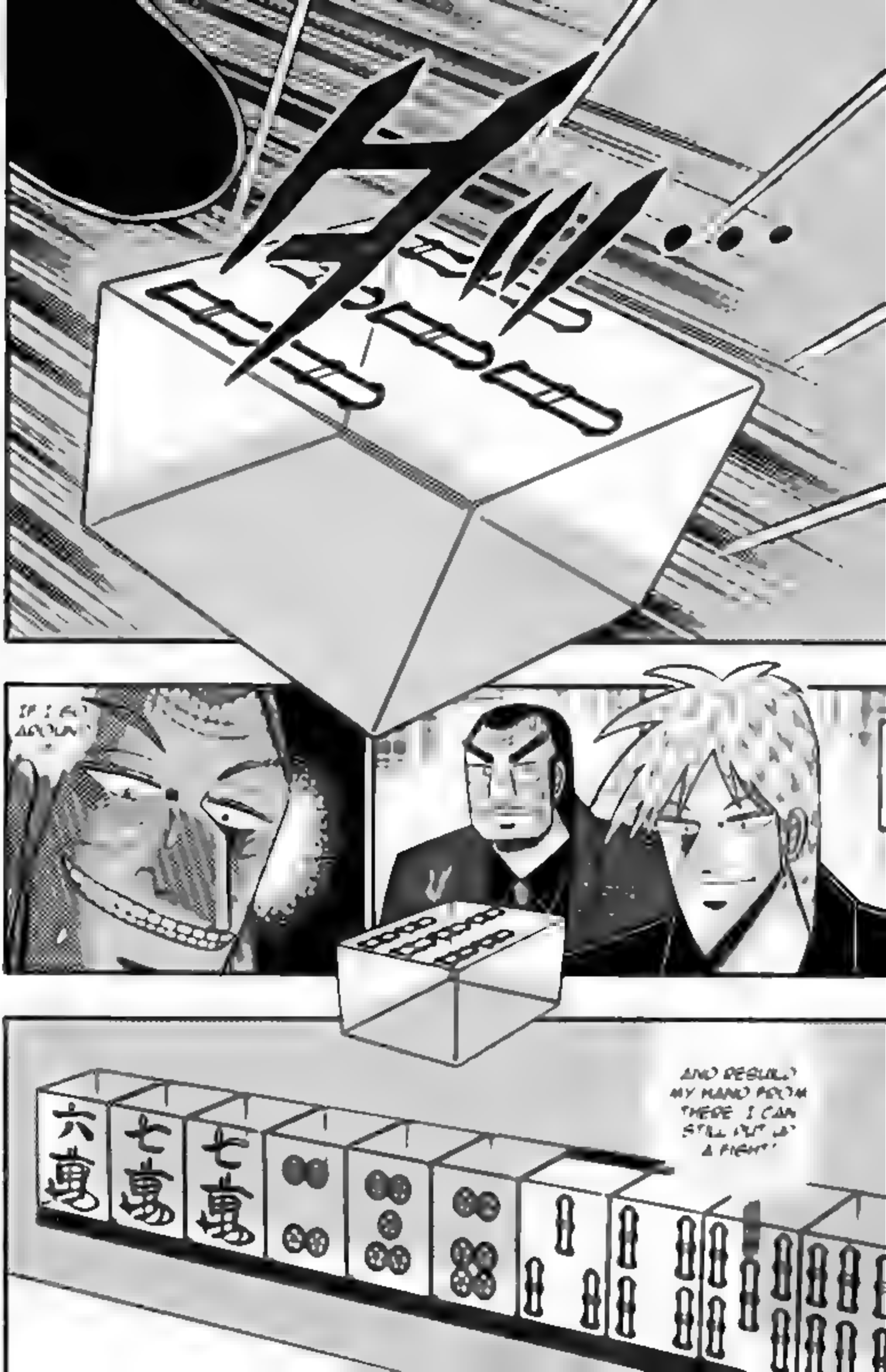

THAT IS IT!
ONE 8-MAN, AND ONE 9-MAN!

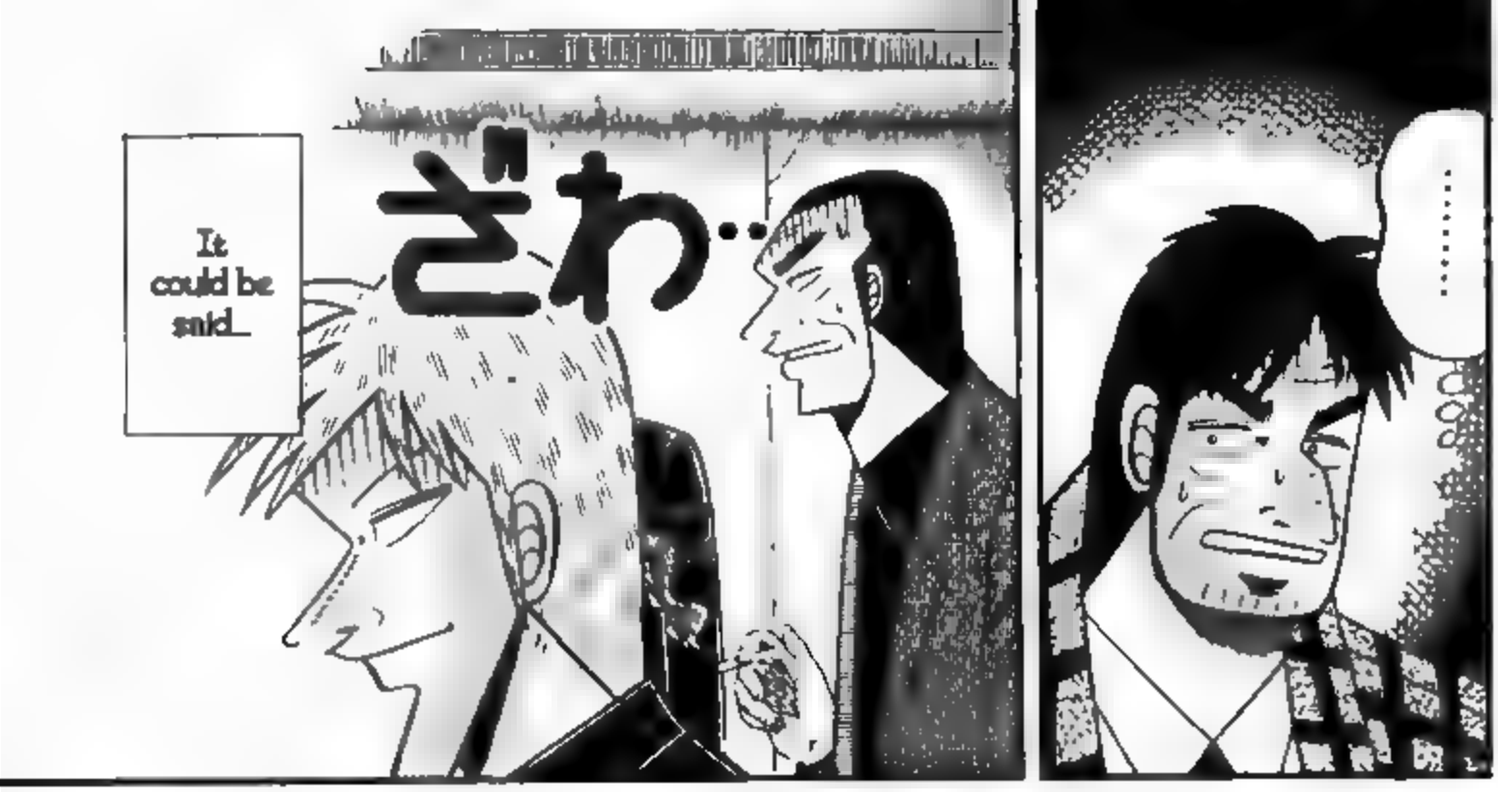
IT'S A HAND THAT'S GOING TO SUFFOCATE ITSELF
HE CERTAINLY ISN'T GOING TO DRAW IT HIMSELF!

ON THE VERGE OF BEING DEAD, EITHER WAY!
HIS TENPAI IS AL-READY

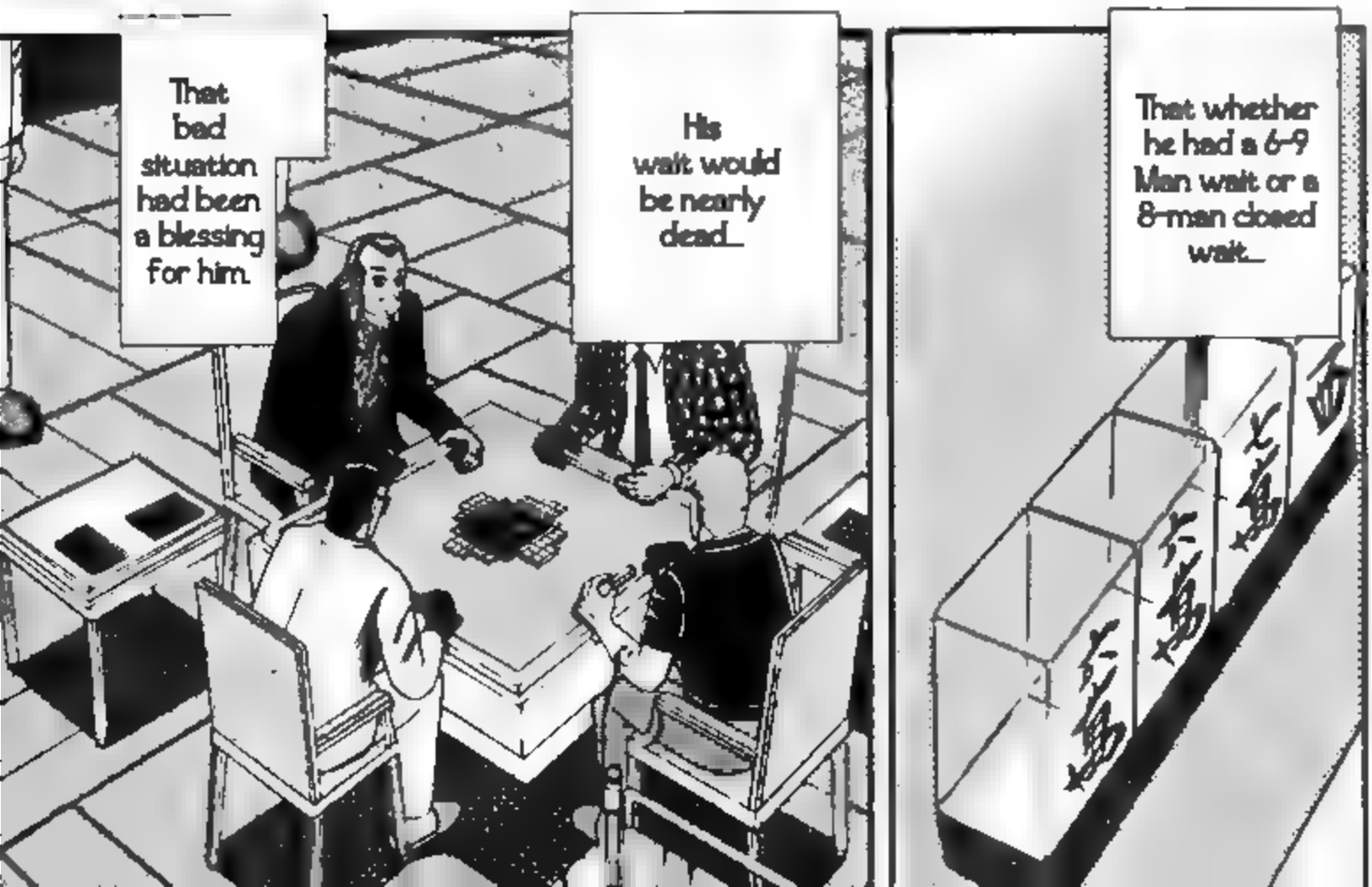

TO GIVE HIM HAVE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE WITH THIS 6-MAN!

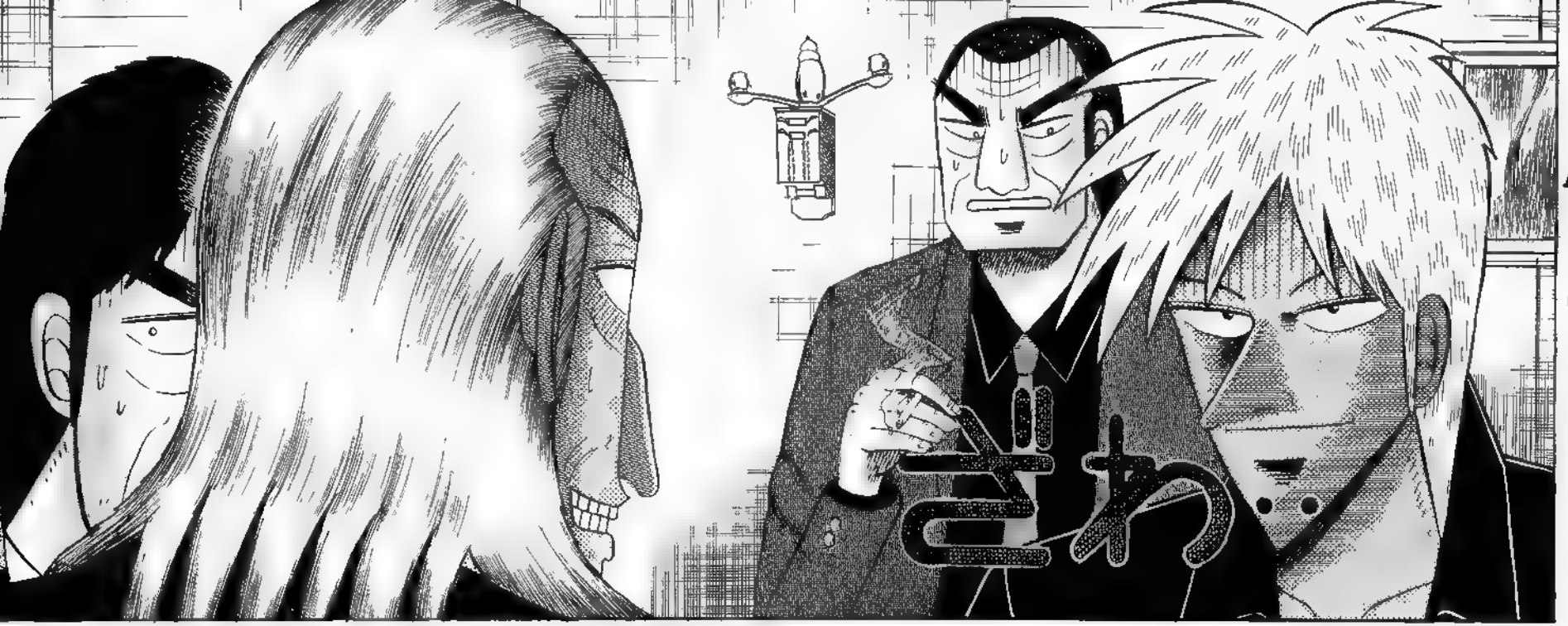
THERE IS NO NEED


AH...
IF I GO ALL IN...
AND REALLY MY HAND FROM THERE I CAN STILL PUT UP A FIGHT!

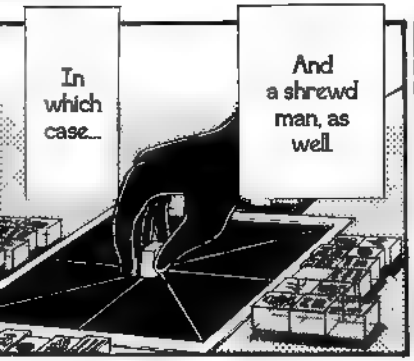

It could be said...
ざわ…
……

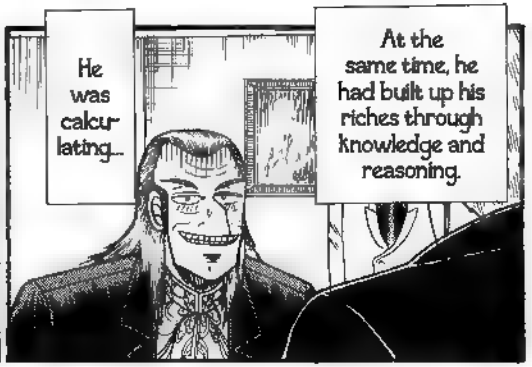
That it was Akagi's lack of luck.

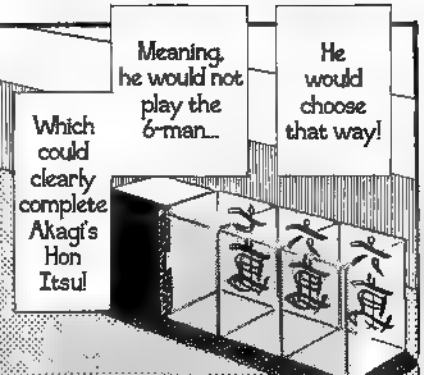

That bad situation had been a blessing for him.
His wait would be nearly dead...
That whether he had a 6-9 Man wait or a 8-man closed wait...
六萬
六萬
六萬

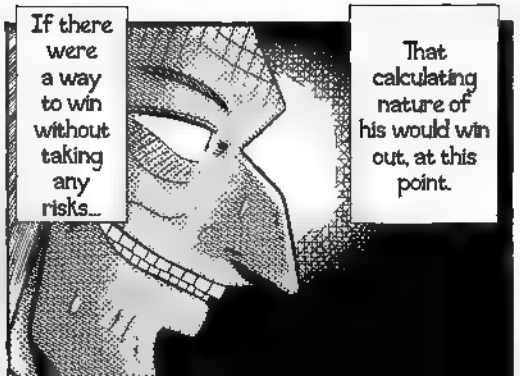


Akagi's lack of luck had saved him!









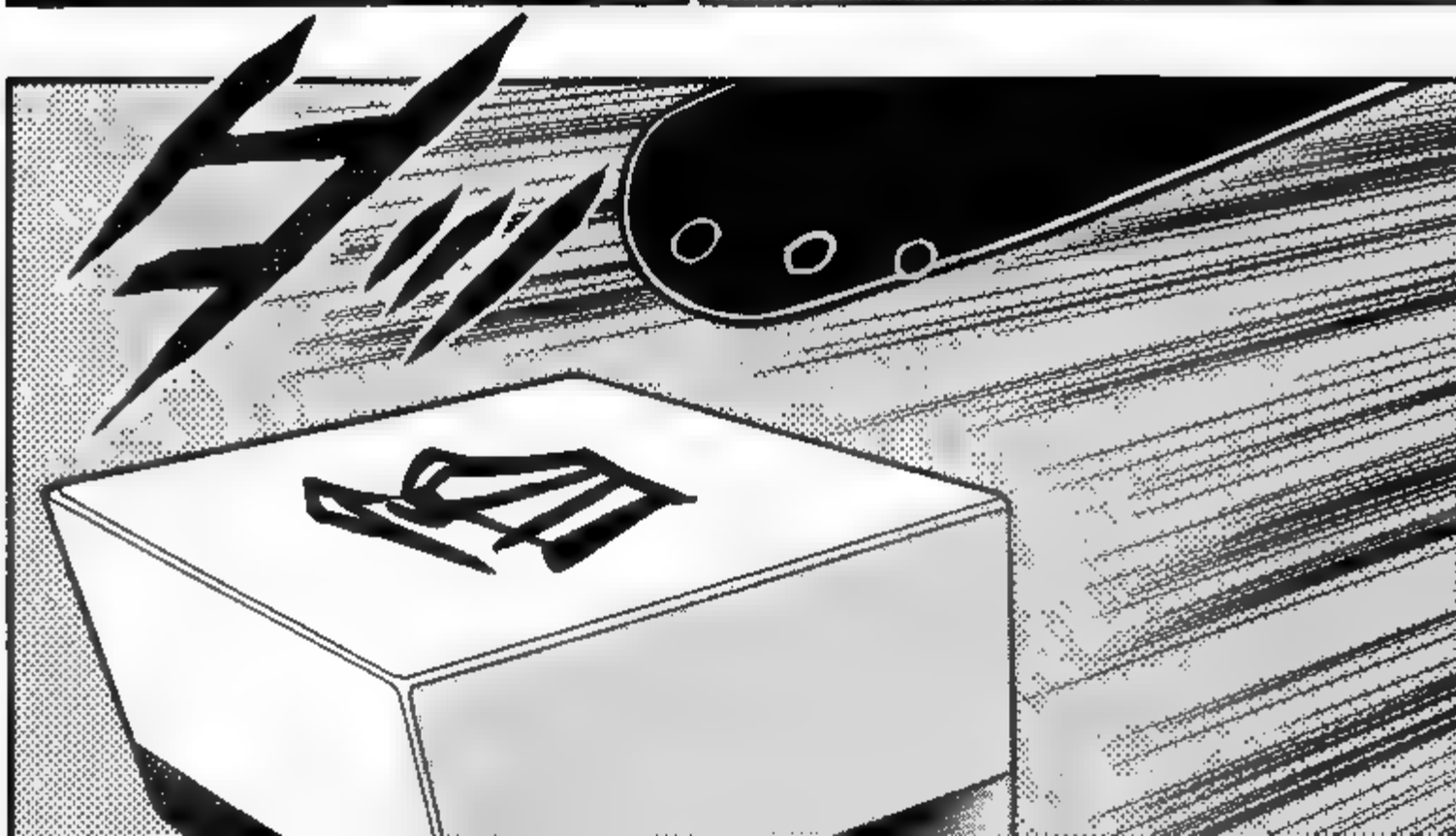
It would be a bad influence on his game!
Going into the following second Hanchan Session...

On top of losing this Hanchan...
Were he to deal in in that ridiculous fashion...

.....
So by dealing in one time...
He would probably lose the flow, with that.

Is something Washizu would never do!

Playing that 6-man...
He believed he would be losing two Hanchans at once.



HE CHANGED OUT THAT XIA FROM WITHIN HIS HAND!
THIS KID

GN-NGH...!!

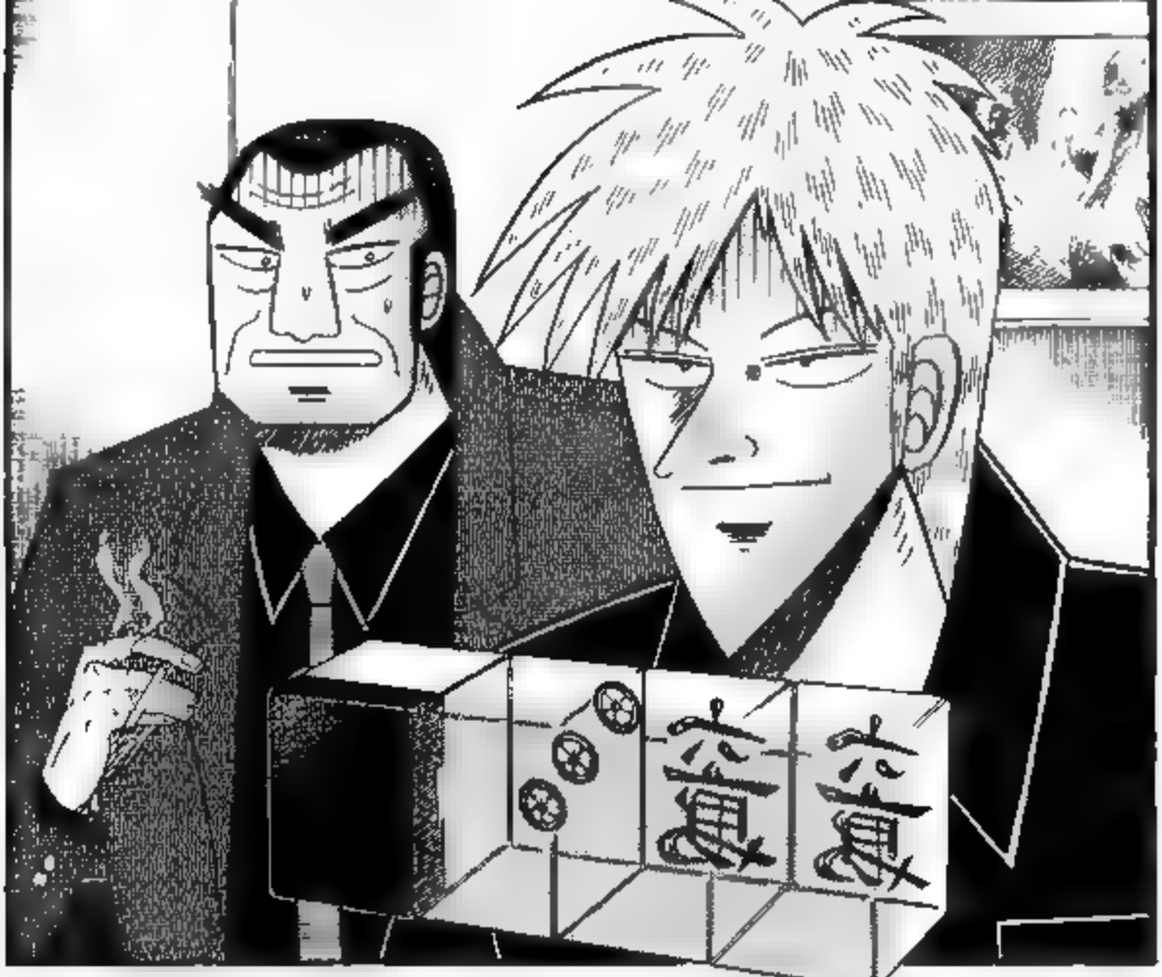
SHIT ...

WASN'T EVEN IN TENPAI!!

Little by little...
Although it was very slim...
The flow had been completely on Washizu's side, but...
It was being restored!
His goal, from the very start!
In truth, that had been...
The winds were beginning to shift in Akagi's favor!

Akagi would have no chance!
Washizu would definitely win.
Were to simply go straight ahead in forming their hands...
In this South 4th Round, if Akagi and Washizu...

His odds of victory...



Hinged on making Washizu yield to him!!

ON THE BRINK
CHAPTER 80
第80話 寸前
WHAT IS HE DOING...?!
ざわ

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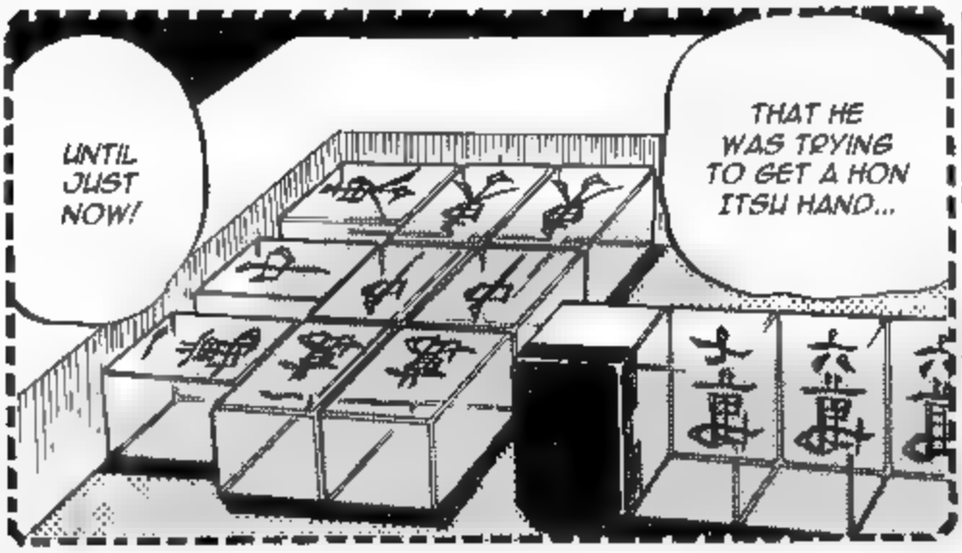
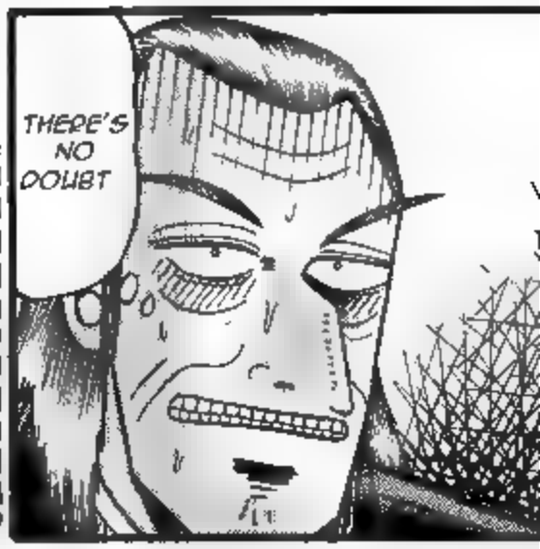
ざわ…
ざわ…

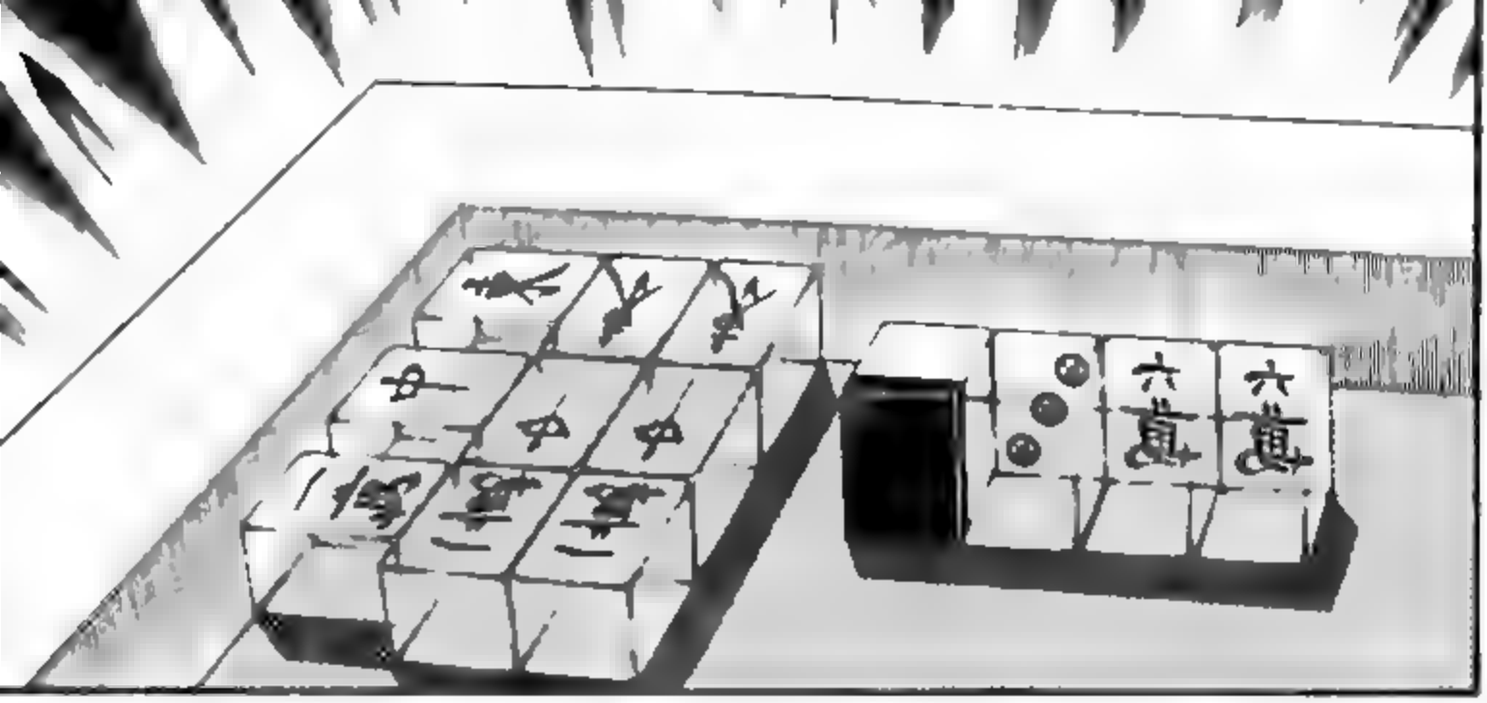

UNTIL JUST NOW!
THAT HE WAS TRYING TO GET A HON ITSU HAND...


THERE'S NO DOUBT

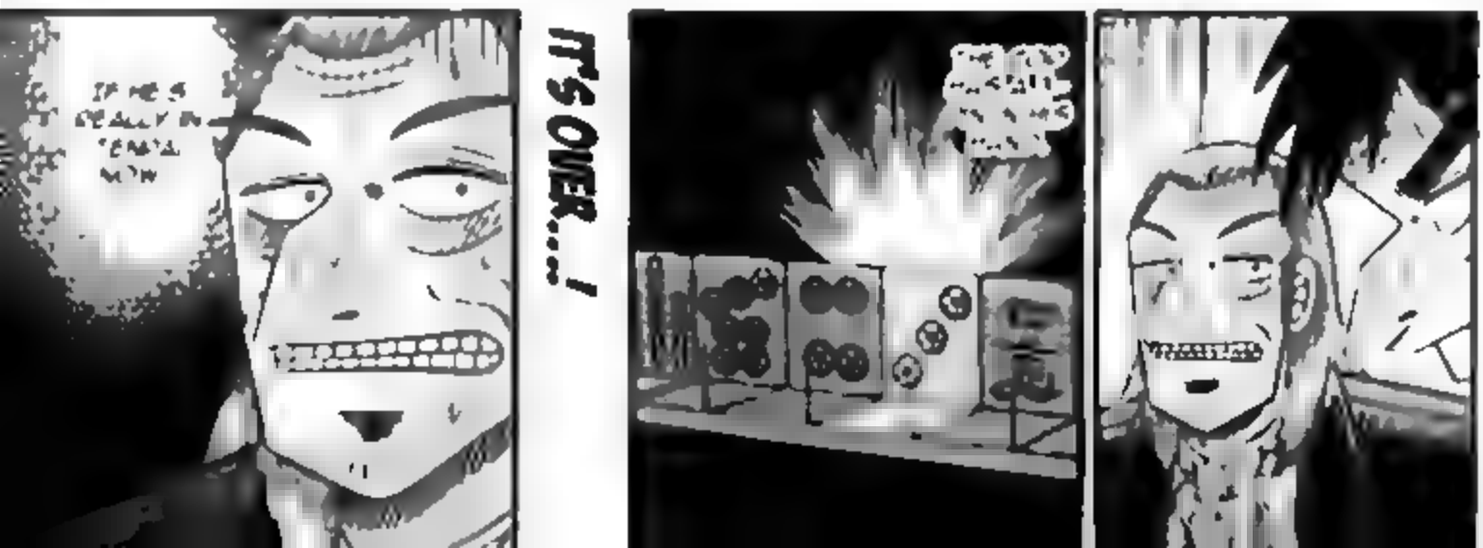
WHICH MEANS...

BUT BY PLAYING THE 7-MAN...

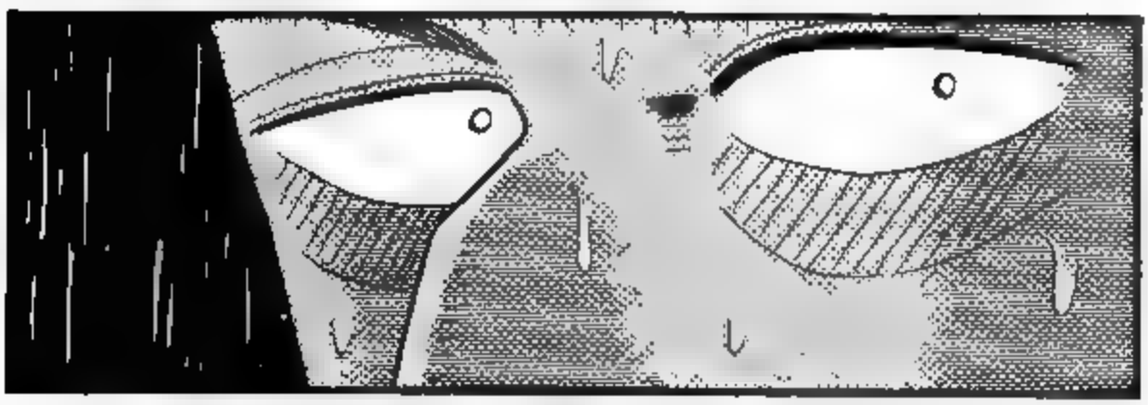
AND KEEPING THE 3-PIN IN HIS HAND, THAT POSSIBILITY IS GONE!



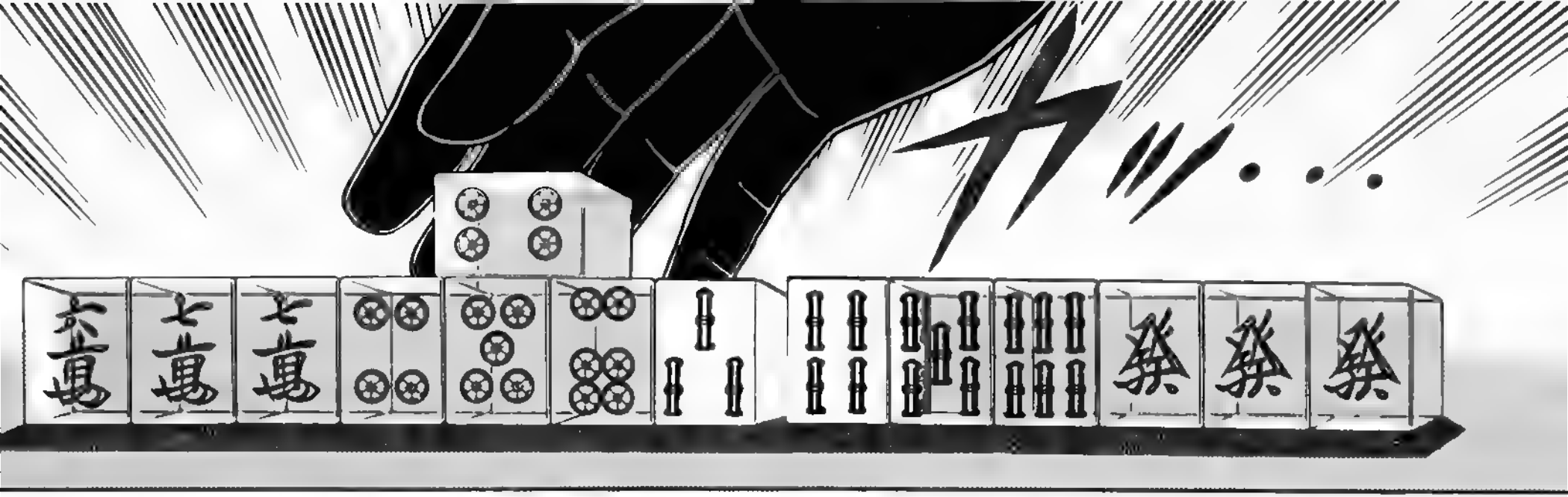
IF THAT OPAQUE TILE IS A
IT WOULD BE TON CHUN AND TON TON PUNG MANGAN

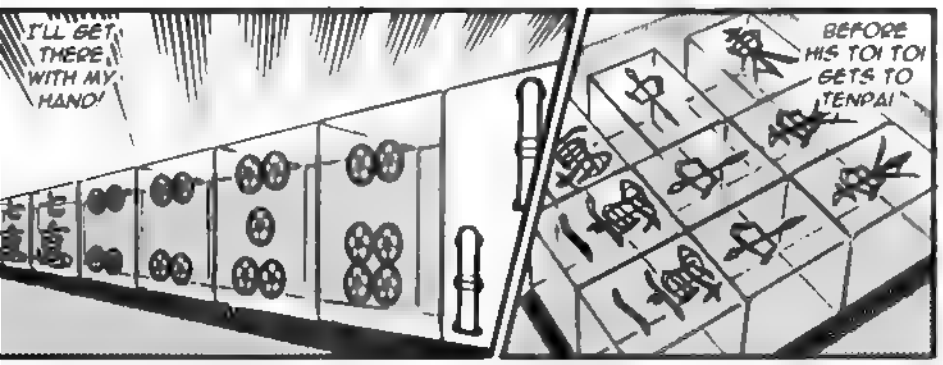

IF HE'S REALLY IN TENPAI NOW
IT'S OVER...!

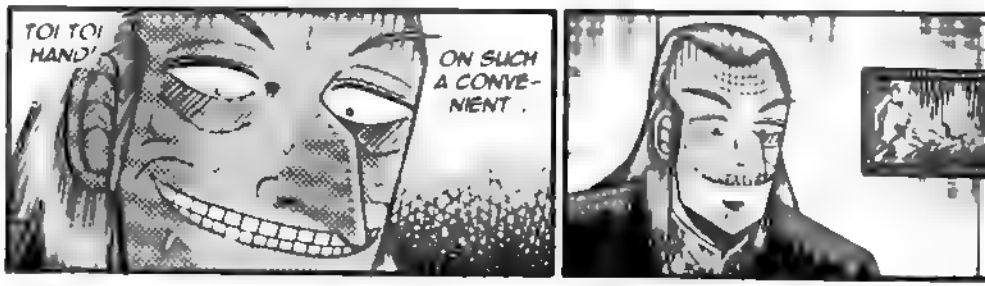
HE'LL DEAL INTO IT NOW AND END THE HAND ...!

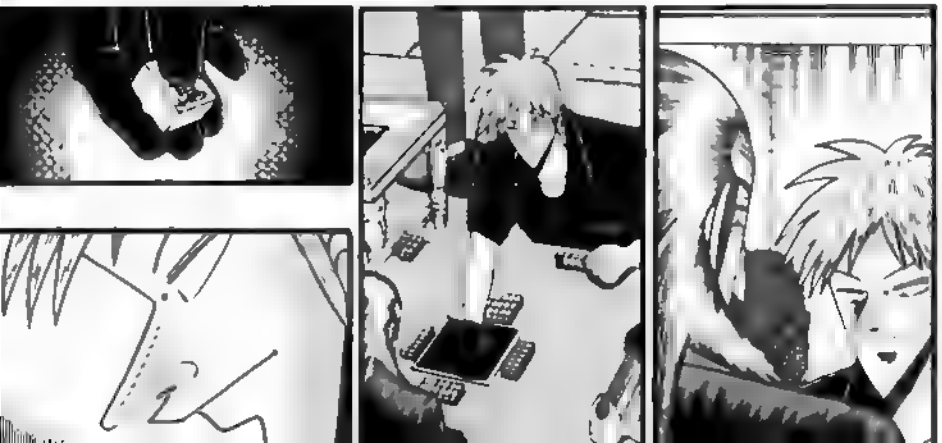


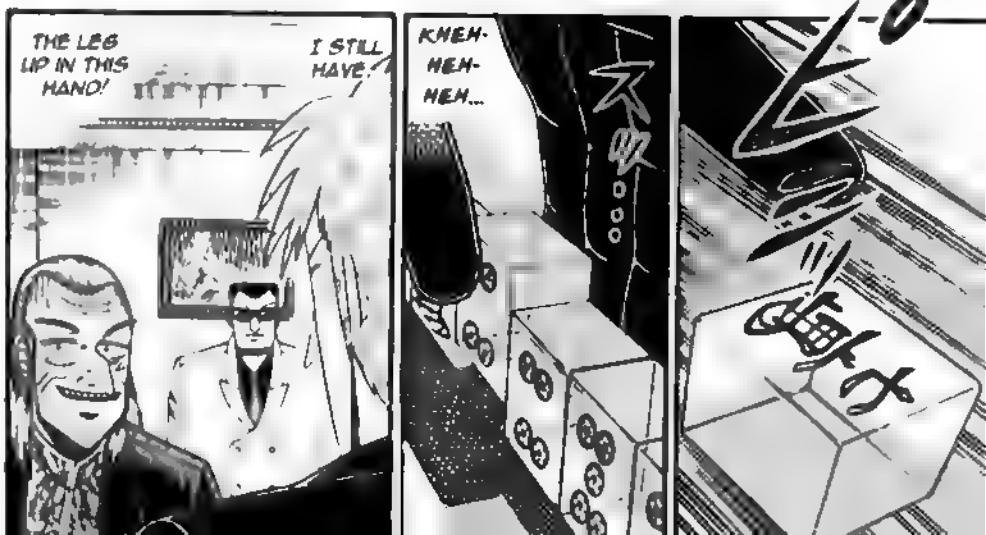
KHEH-
HEH...
SO IT'S NOT TENPAI, THEN!
WELL, NATU-RALLY.
LIKE YOU COULD BE IN TENPAI NOW!

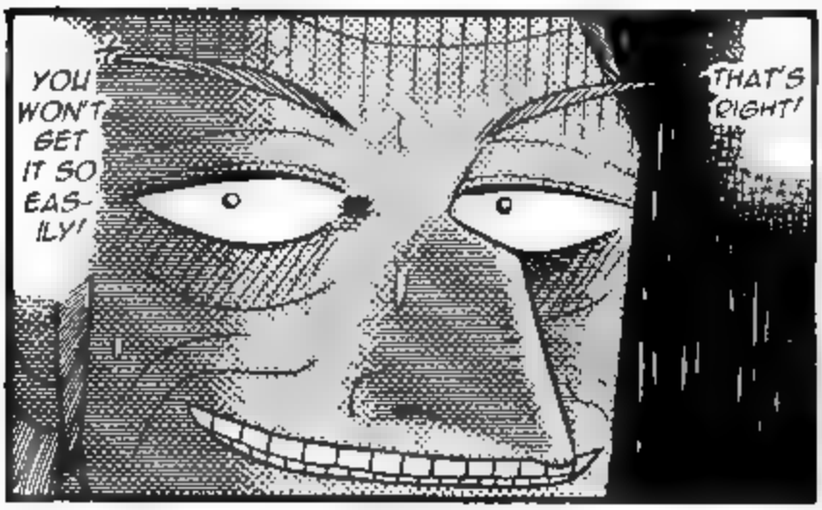



I'LL GET THERE WITH MY HAND!
BEFORE HIS TOI TOI GETS TO TENPAI


TOI TOI HAND!
ON SUCH A CONVE-NIENT



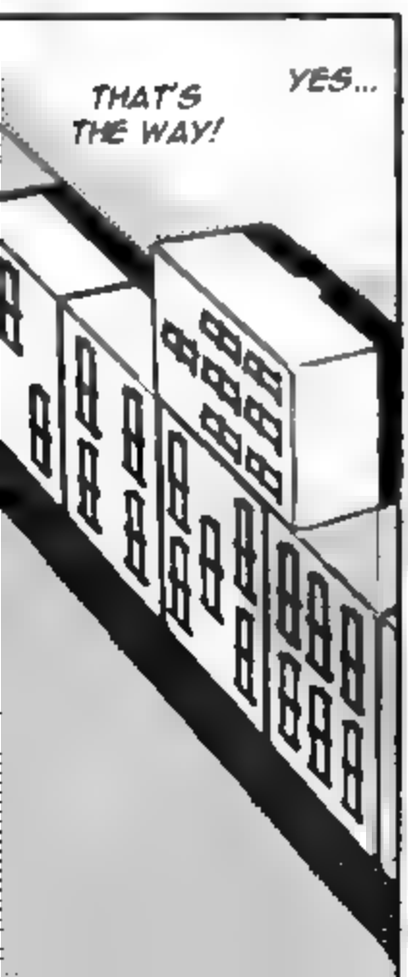

THE LEG UP IN THIS HAND!
I STILL HAVE!
KHEH-HEH-HEH...

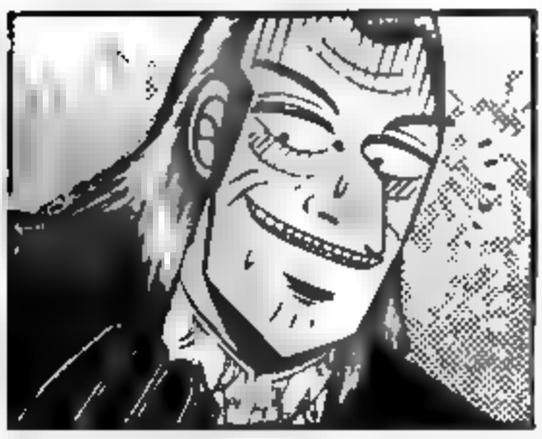

YOU WON'T GET IT SO EAS-ILY!
THAT'S RIGHT!

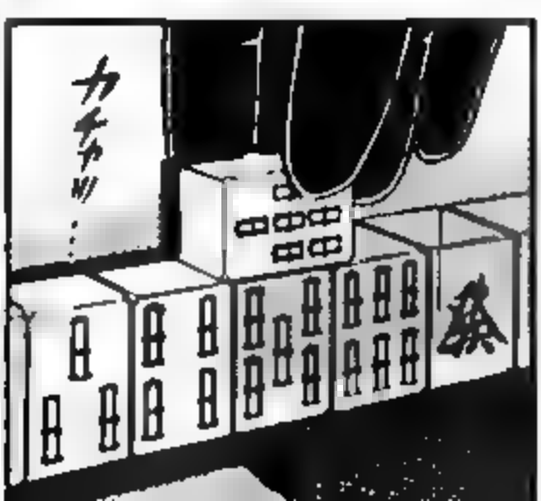
SO IN THE MEAN-TIME.

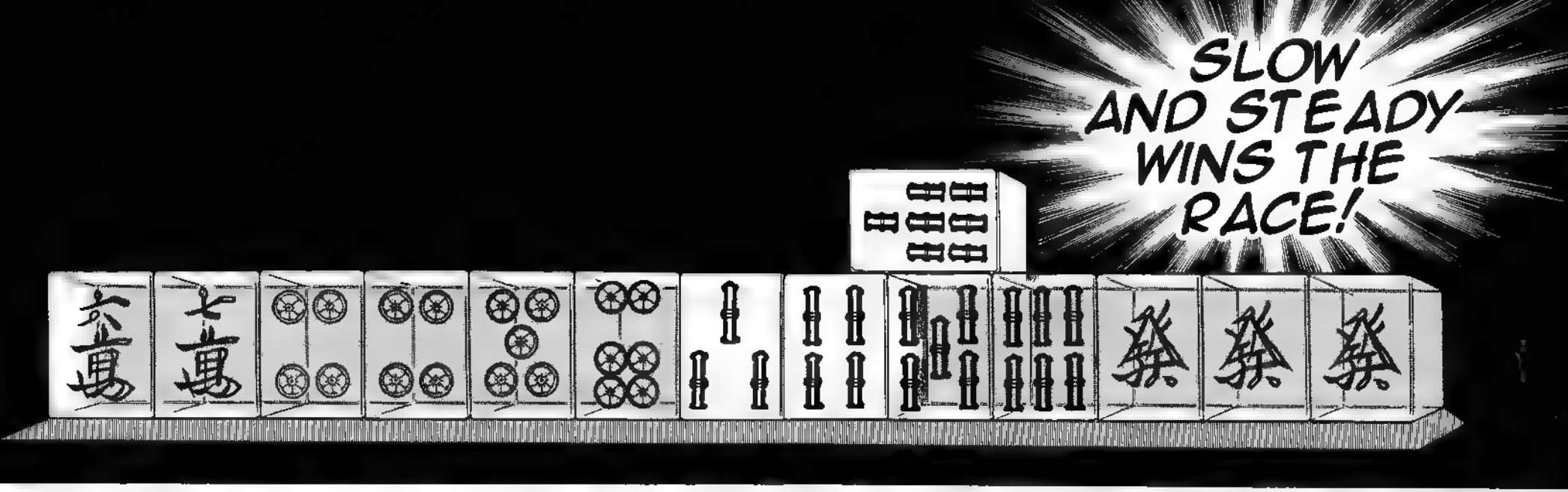
YOU CAN'T DRAW THE LAST 3-PIN WITH SUCH EASE!

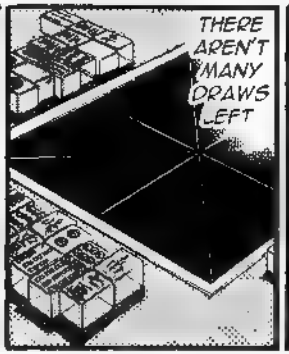
I'LL JUST MAKE A COME-BACK ON MY OWN...!!
WHILE YOU'RE STRUG-GLING TO GET A HAND TO-GETHER...

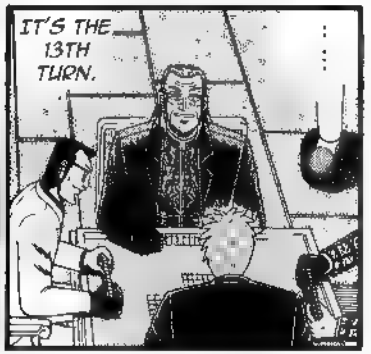

YES...
THAT'S THE WAY!

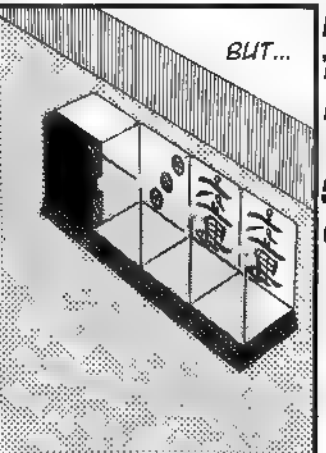



カチャリ…

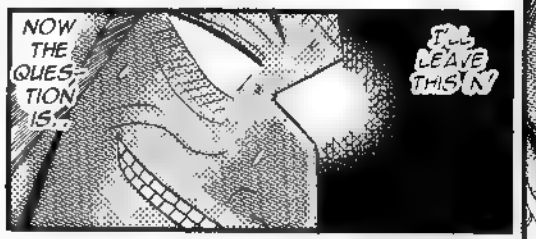


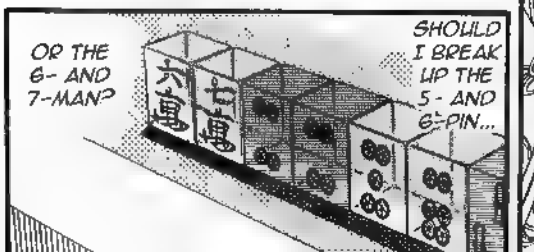


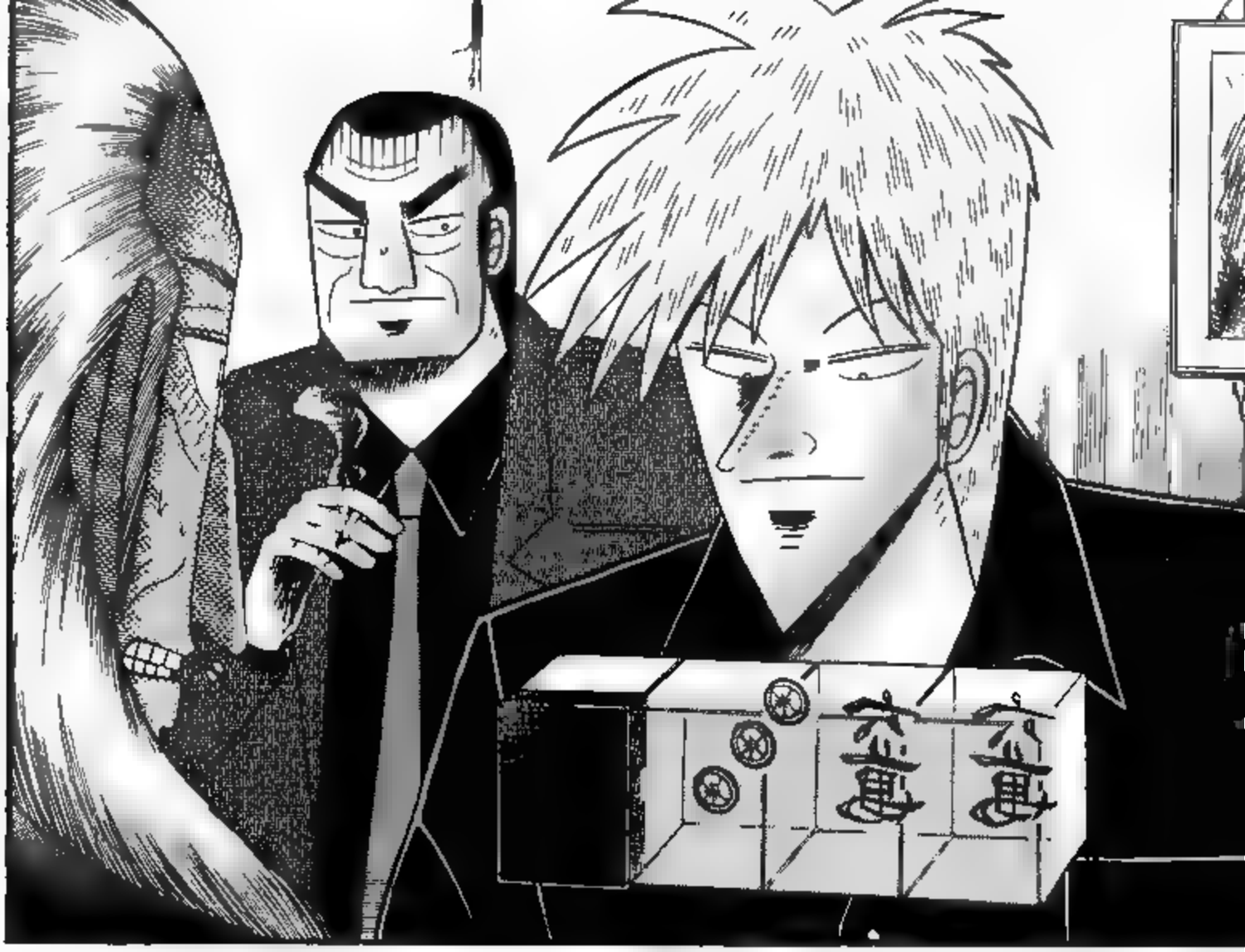


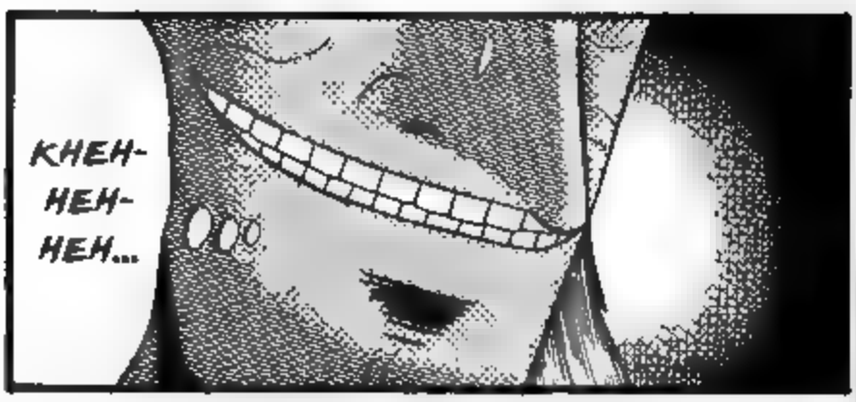


I WANT TO GET RID OF THE 5- AND 6-PIN!



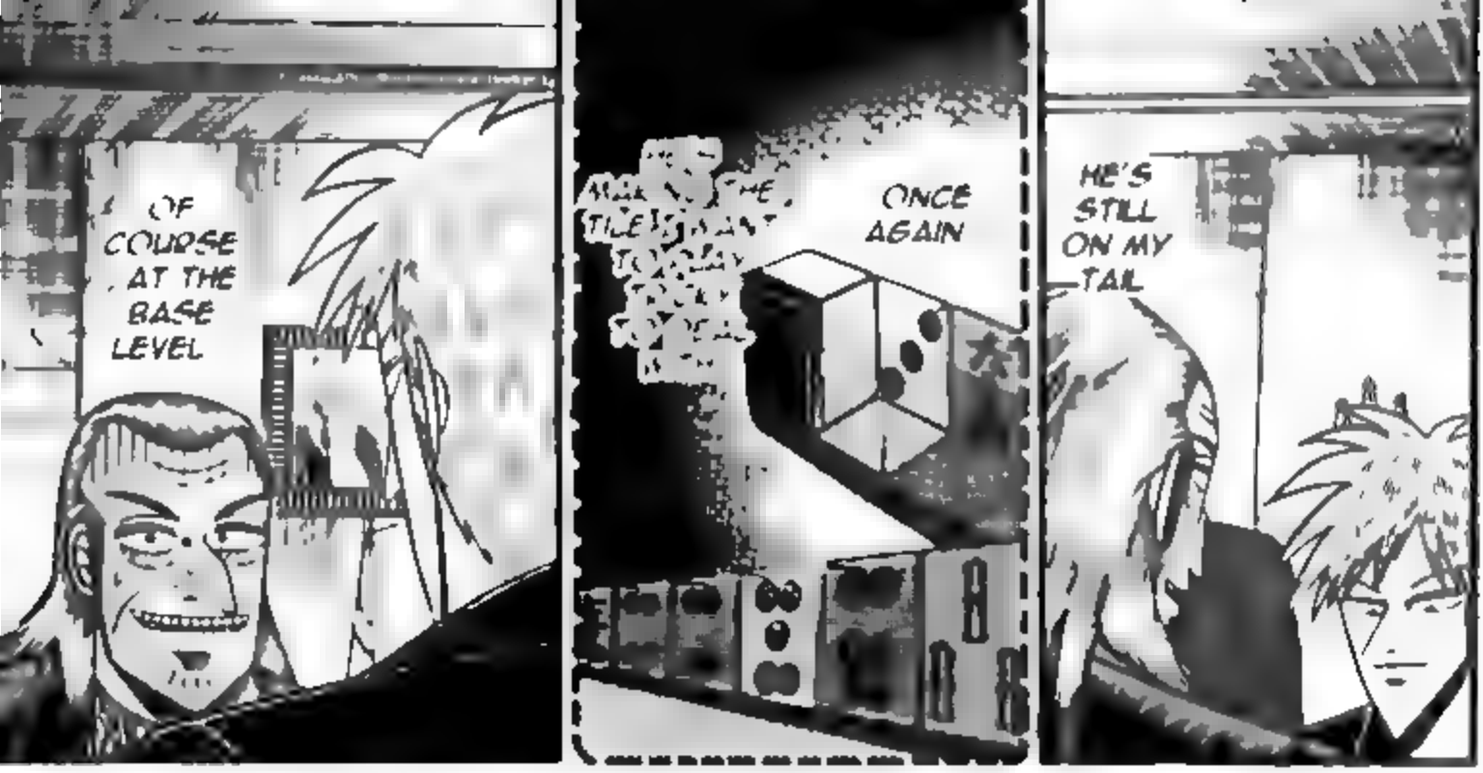


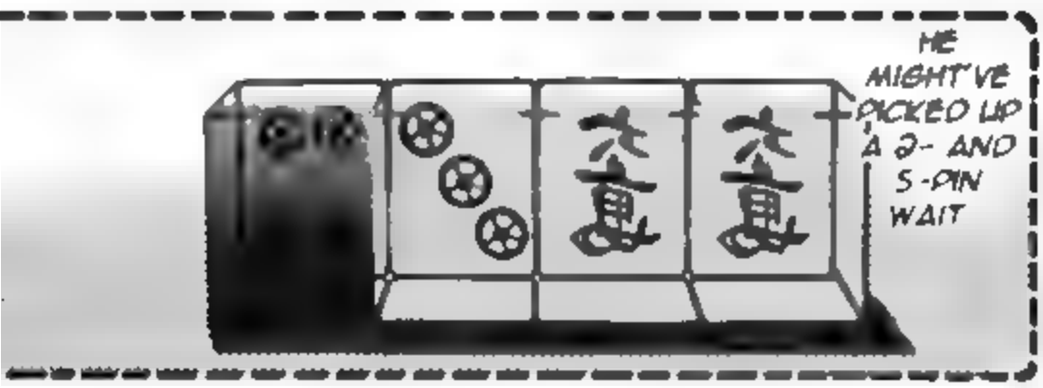


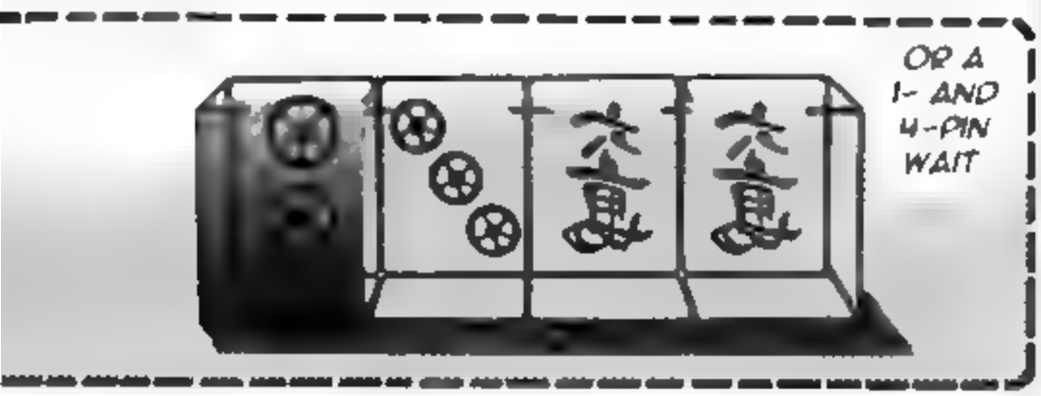

KHEH-
HEH-
HEH...

HE'S ON THE BRINK OF RUIN IN THIS GAME AND YET-
HE'S IN DEEP DIS-TRESS.

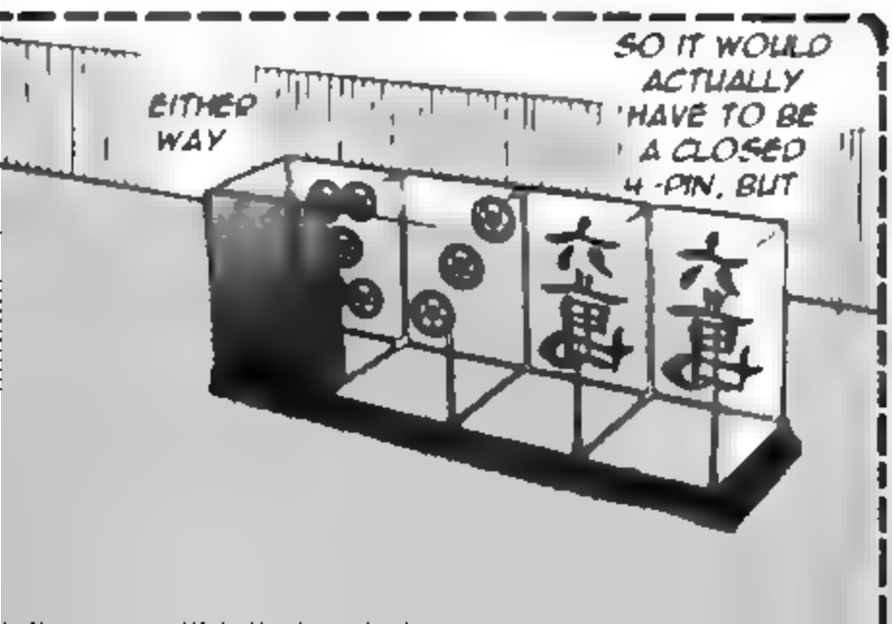
HE'S A STRA-NGE KID.

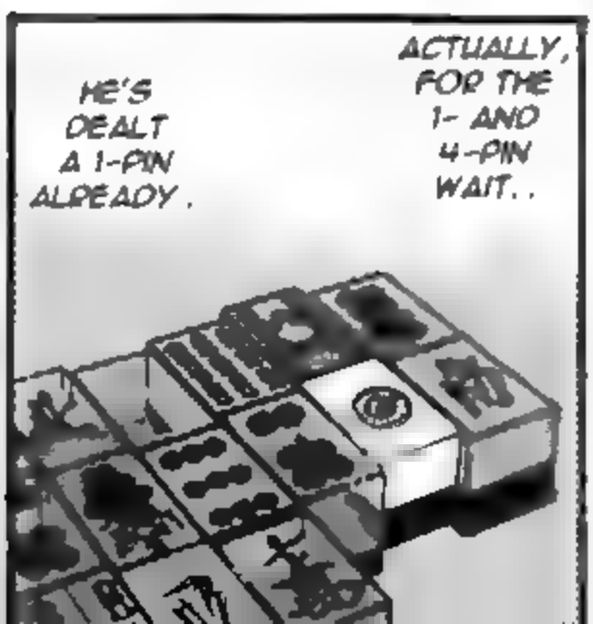

OF COURSE, AT THE BASE LEVEL
ONCE AGAIN
HE'S STILL ON MY TAIL


HE MIGHT'VE PICKED UP A 2- AND 5-PIN WAIT

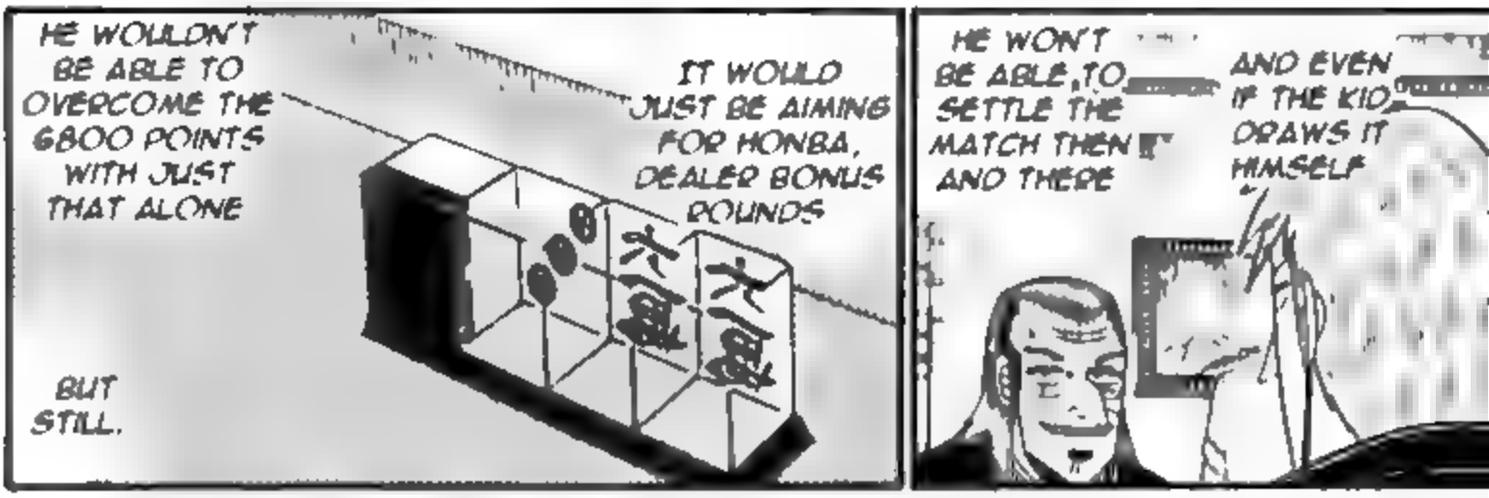

OR A 1- AND 4-PIN WAIT

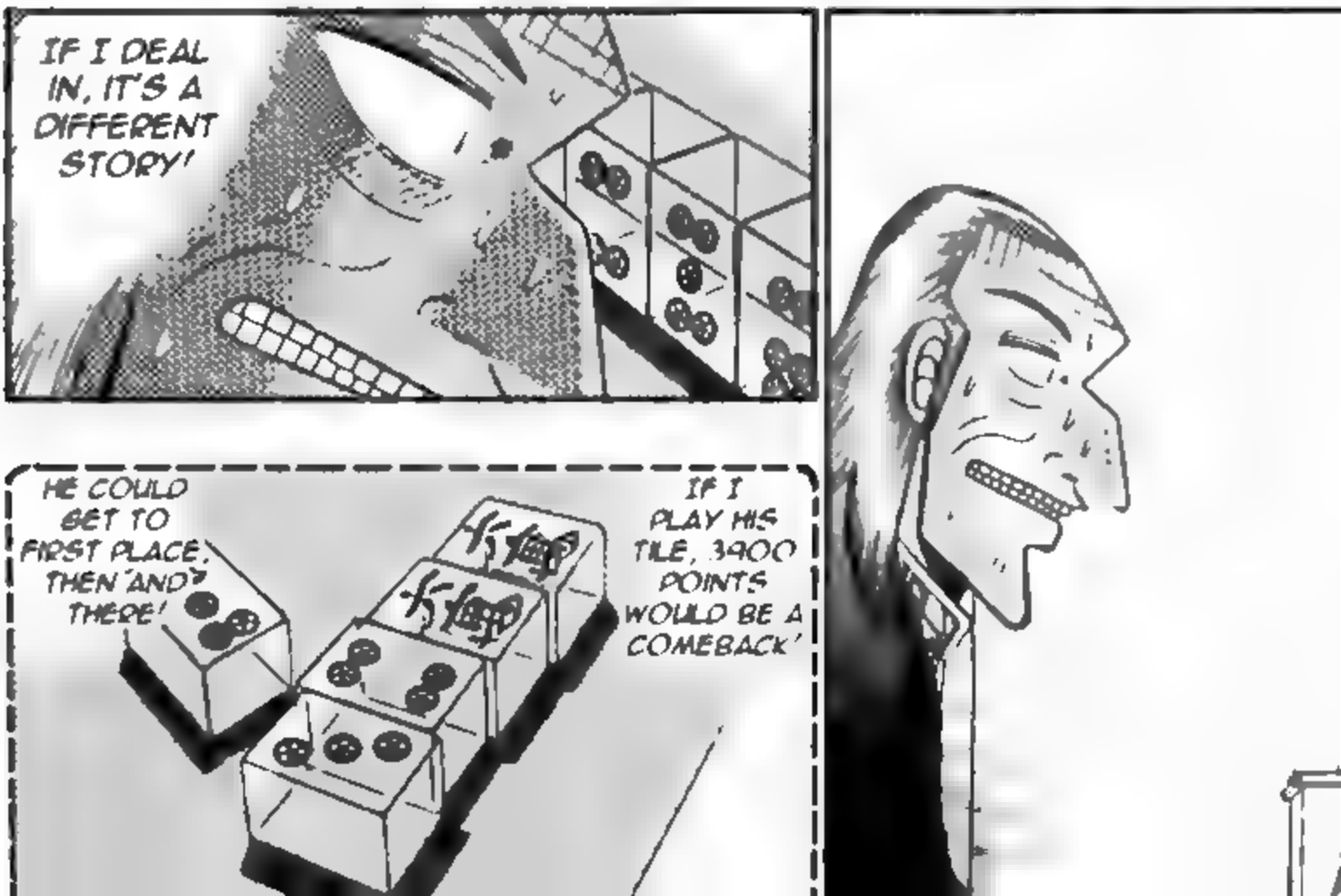
BUT IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING THERE
HE'S TRYING TO GET HIS HAND TO TOI TOI RIGHT NOW


EITHER WAY
SO IT WOULD ACTUALLY HAVE TO BE A CLOSED 4-PIN, BUT

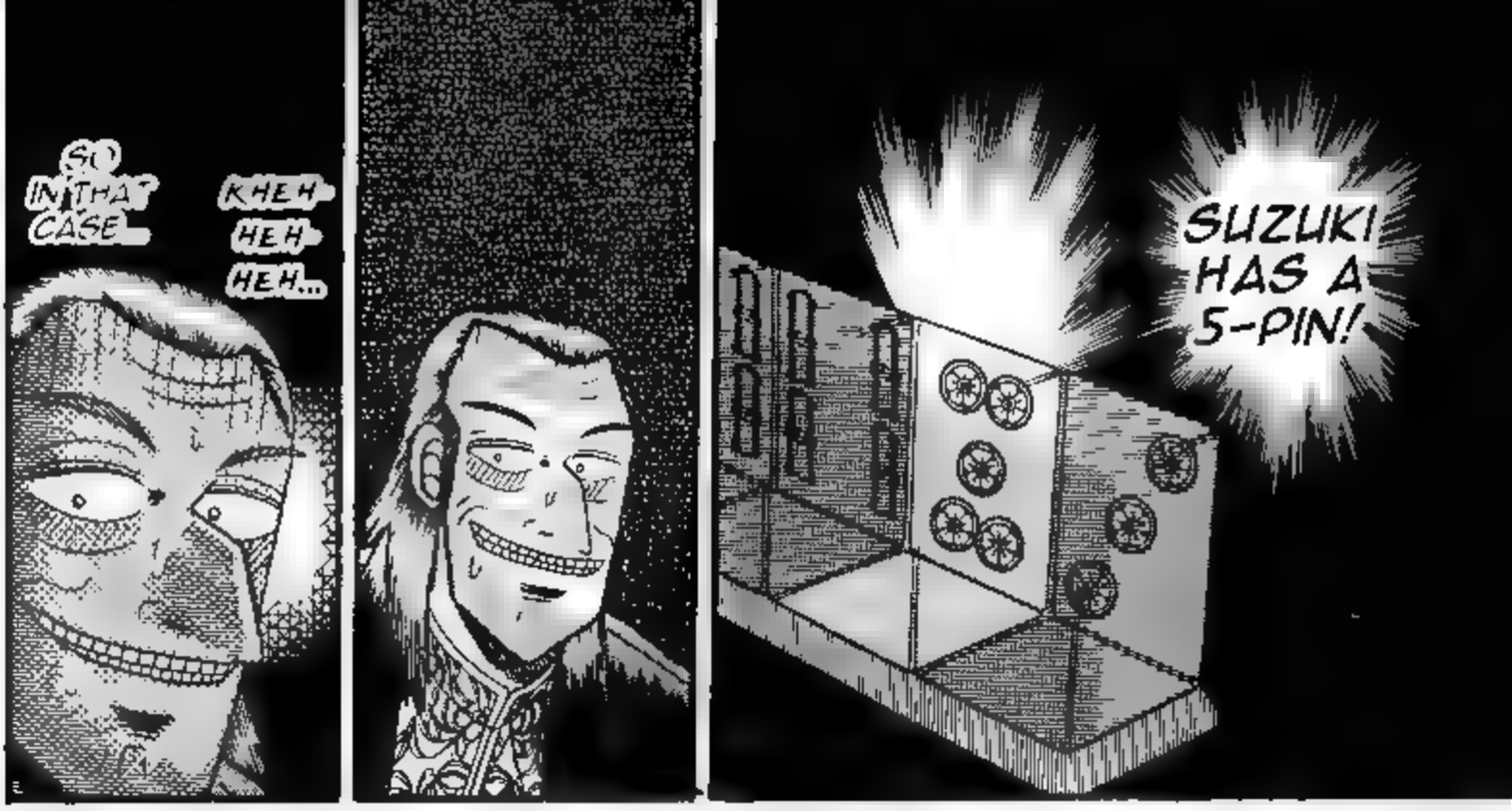

HE'S DEALT A 1-PIN ALREADY.
ACTUALLY, FOR THE 1- AND 4-PIN WAIT..

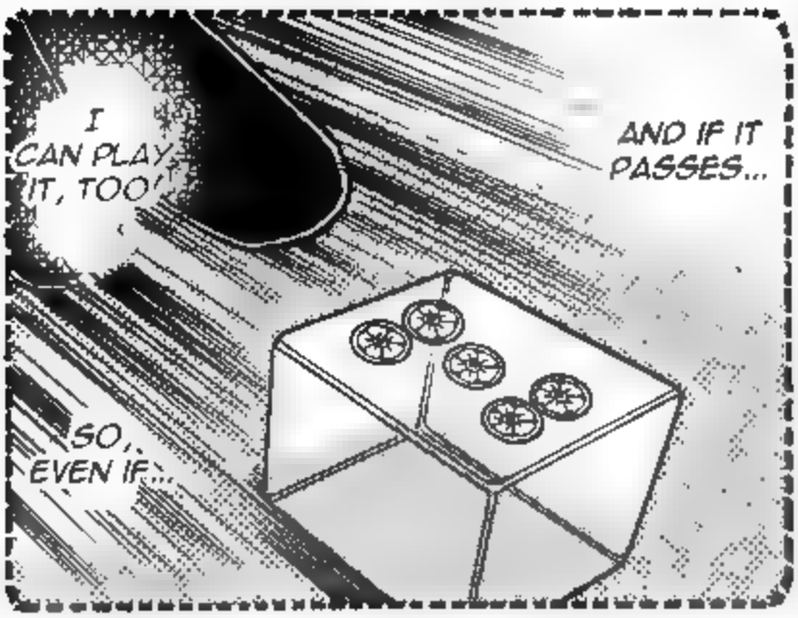
CAN'T BE WON OFF THE COP.
OF COURSE. THAT 3900-POINT HAND
THAT 2-HAN 40-FU HAND AS THE DEALER, IT'S 3900 POINTS!
IT'S POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO WIN WITH JUST A TON AND CHUN HAND!

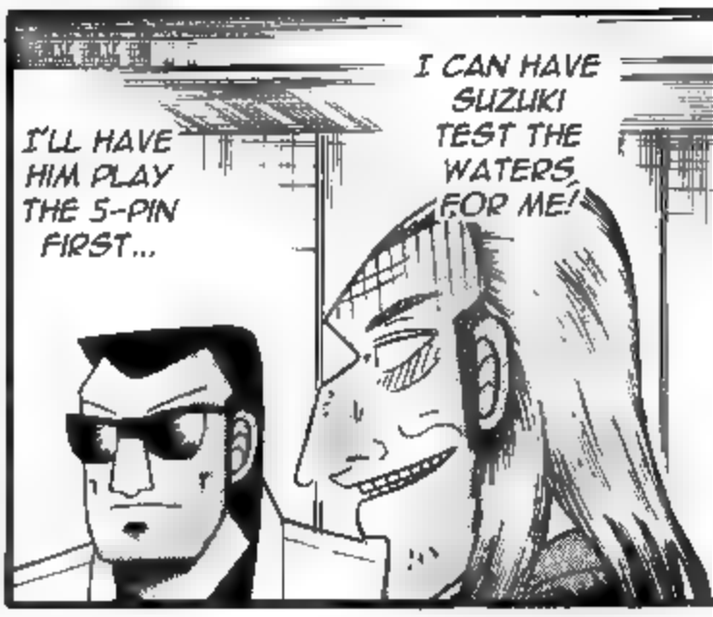

HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE 6800 POINTS WITH JUST THAT ALONE
BUT STILL.
IT WOULD JUST BE AIMING FOR HONBA, DEALER BONUS POUNDS
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SETTLE THE MATCH THEN AND THERE
AND EVEN IF THE KID DRAWS IT HIMSELF


IF I DEAL IN, IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY!
HE COULD GET TO FIRST PLACE, THEN AND THERE!
IF I PLAY HIS TILE, 3900 POINTS WOULD BE A COMEBACK!

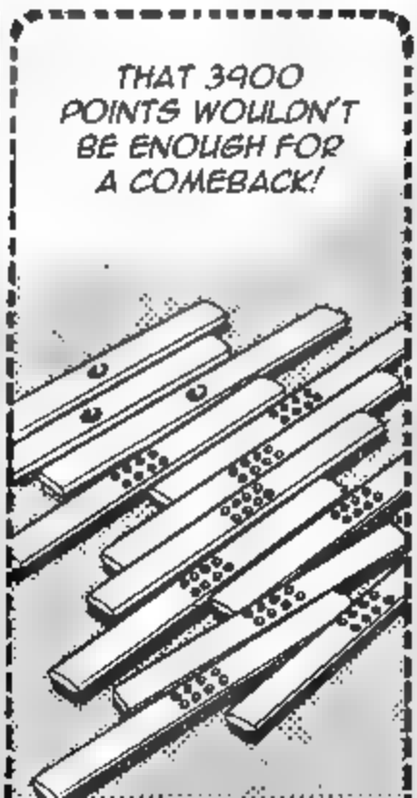
SO WITH THAT IN MIND...
.....
WAIT A MINUTE...!
His underling, Suzuki's hand
THAT'S RIGHT!
チラ

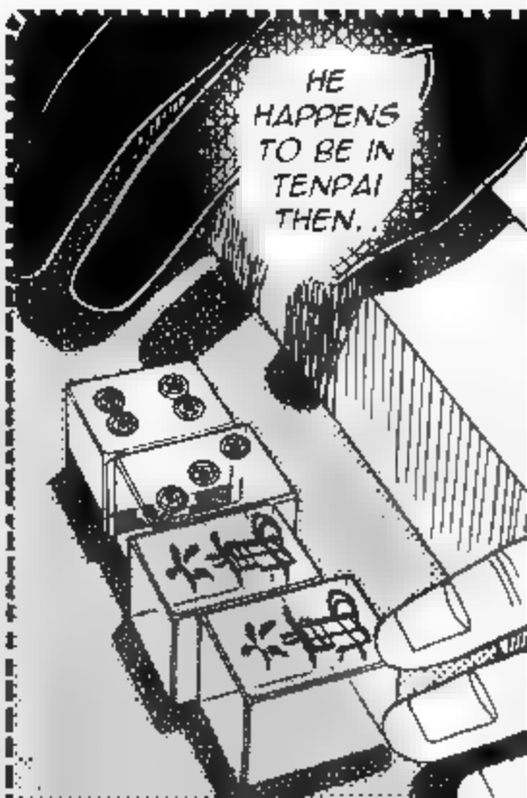

SO IN THAT CASE...
KHEH HEH HEH...
SUZUKI HAS A 5-PIN!


I CAN PLAY IT, TOO!
AND IF IT PASSES...
SO, EVEN IF...


I'LL HAVE HIM PLAY THE 5-PIN FIRST...
I CAN HAVE SUZUKI TEST THE WATERS FOR ME!

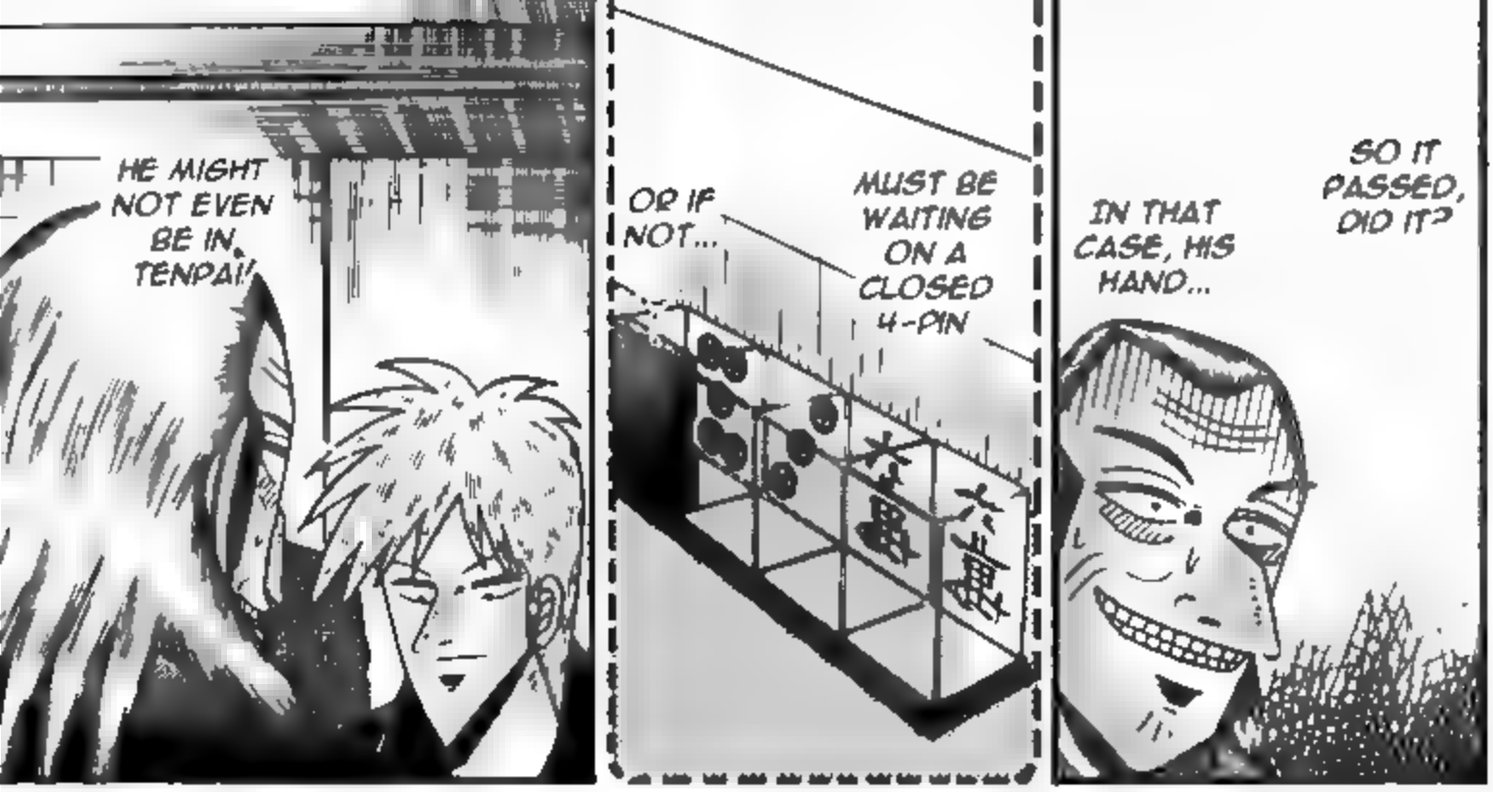
THAT WOULDN'T BE SUCH A BIG PROB-LEM FOR ME.
IT WOULD JUST EXTEND THE MATCH...
YES, THAT'S IT!


THAT 3900 POINTS WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH FOR A COMEBACK!

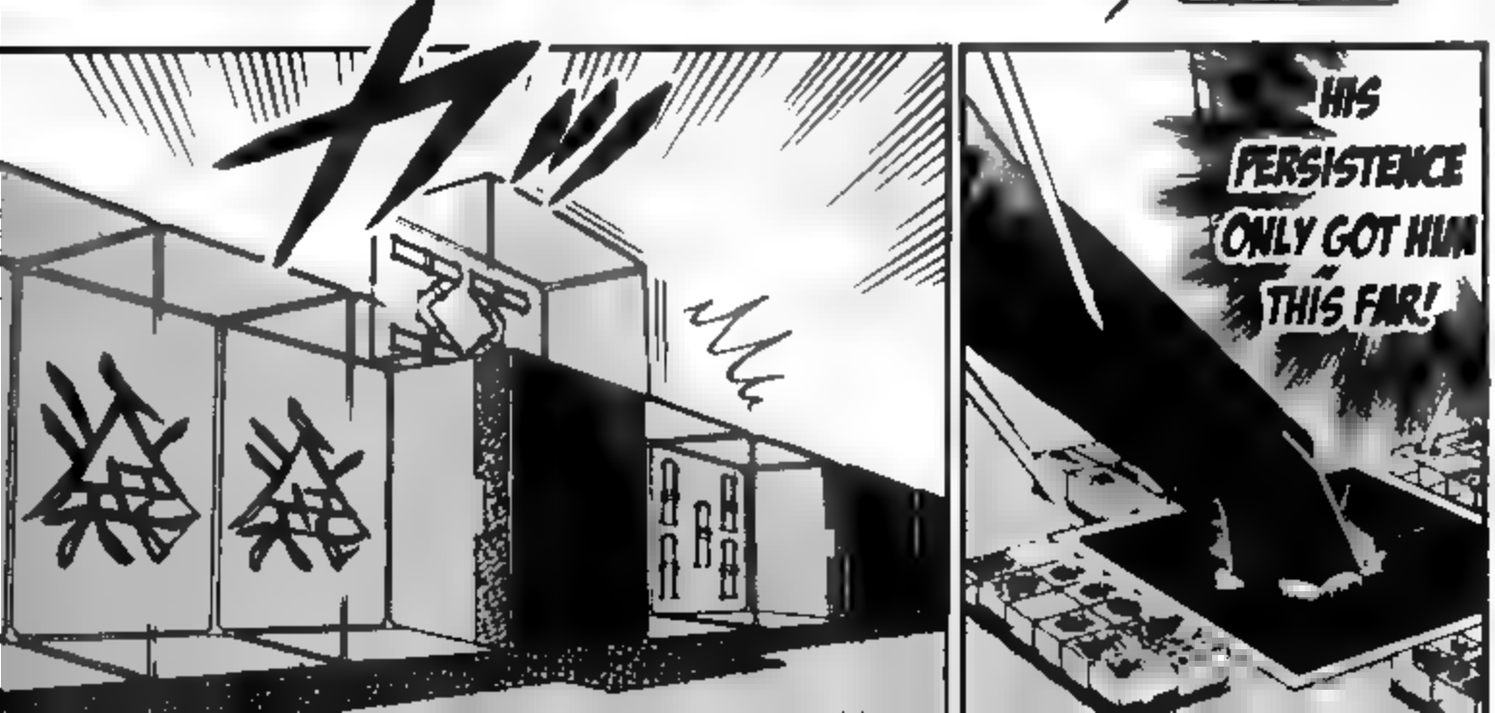

HE HAPPENS TO BE IN TENPAI THEN...

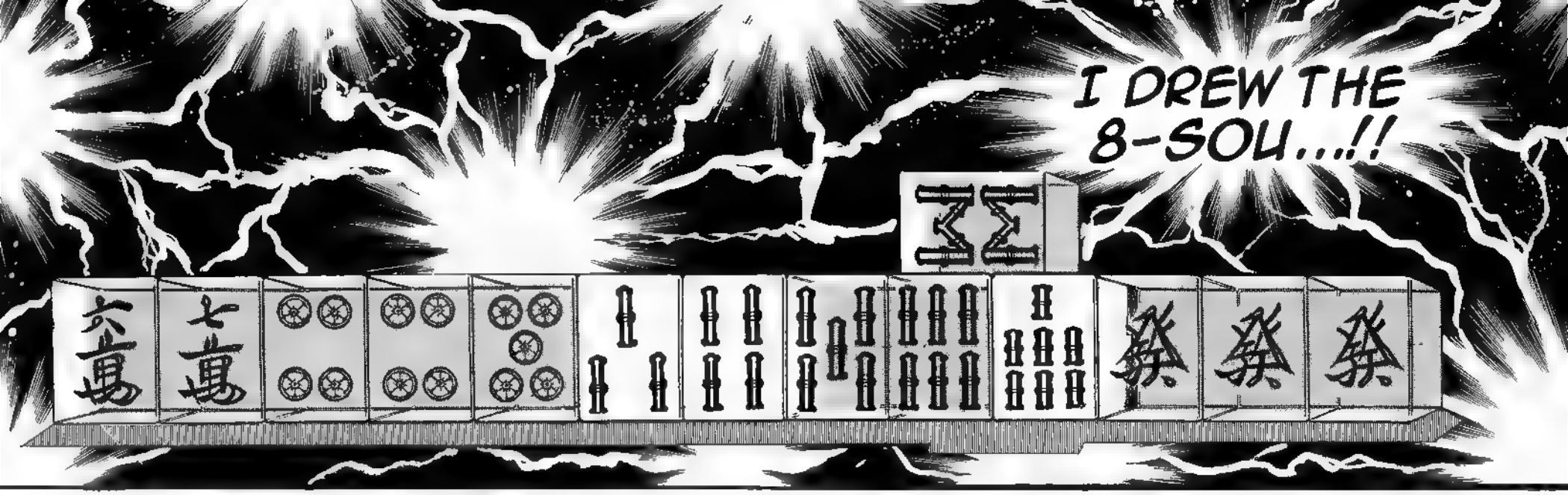
His underling, Suzuki...
After seeing this...
And then sends the signal for his underling to play 5-pin.
Washizu plays his 6-pin...
THAT'S THE BEST OPTION!
Plays 5-pin!
However...
This 5-pin is very dangerous!
Against Akagi...

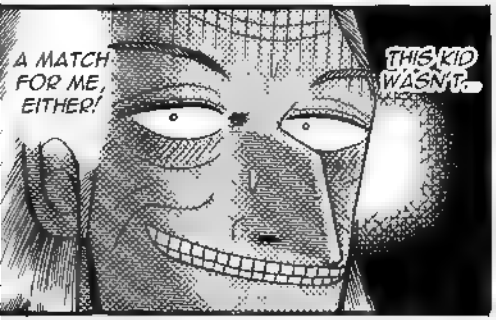
Akagi does not move to take it!
KHEH-HEH-HEH...
He takes his draw...
And plays it immediately!


HE MIGHT NOT EVEN BE IN TENPAI!
OR IF NOT...
MUST BE WAITING ON A CLOSED 4-PIN
IN THAT CASE, HIS HAND...
SO IT PASSED, DID IT?

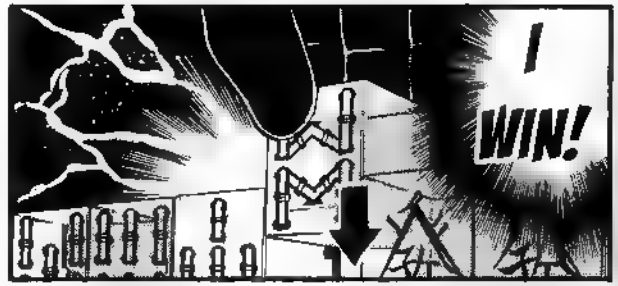
SINCE HE COULDN'T WIN ON THIS 5-PIN...
BUT EITHER WAY,
SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS POSSIBLE, TOO!
IN OTHER WORDS...


HIS PERSISTENCE ONLY GOT HIM THIS FAR!

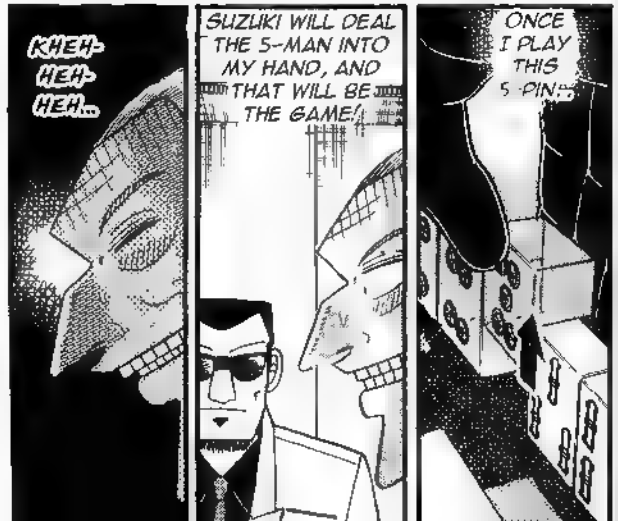

I DREW THE 8-SOU...!!


A MATCH FOR ME, EITHER!
THIS KID WASN'T...

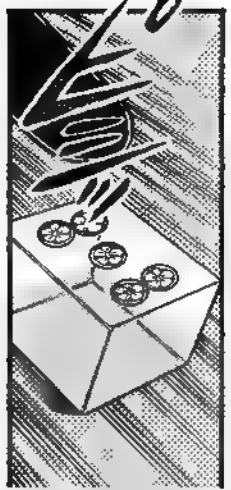
IN THE END...
THERE WERE MANY TWISTS AND TURNS, BUT...
I WIN!


I WIN!

Washizu reaches Tenpai!


KHEH-HEH-HEH...
SUZUKI WILL DEAL THE 5-MAN INTO MY HAND, AND THAT WILL BE THE GAME!
ONCE I PLAY THIS 5-PIN...

WHO CAN WIN AGAINST ME!!



PLAIN AND SIMPLY...
THERE IS NO MAN...

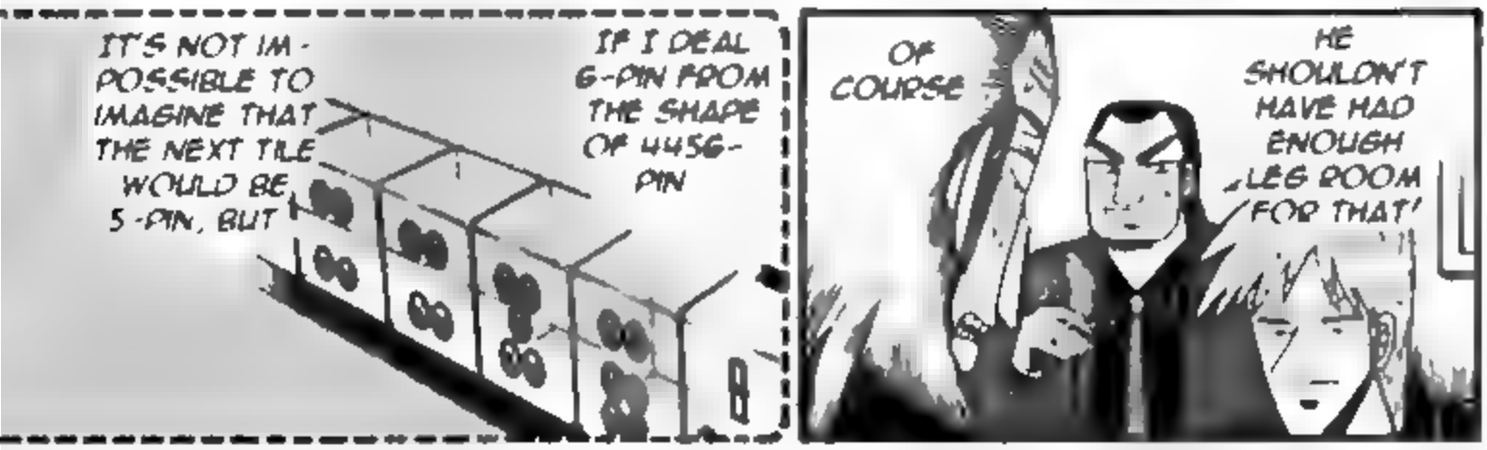
RON.
WHAT...?!
AKA-GI-!!
AKA-GI!
HEY GEE ZES
HM-HMM
YOU REALLY DID IT!!
YOU DID IT!

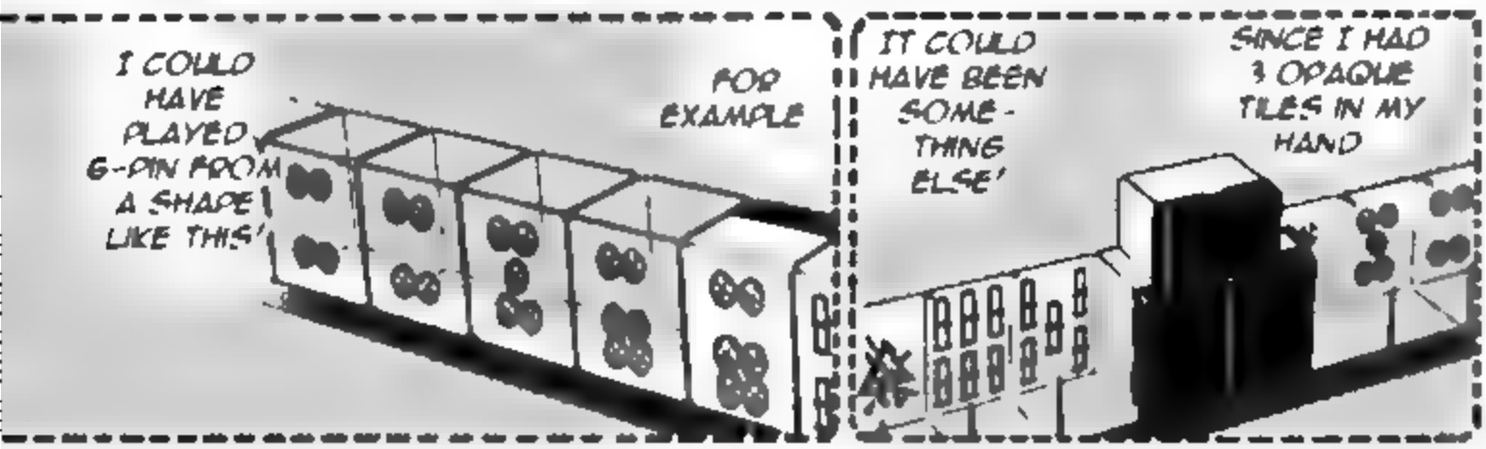
FOR A COME-BACK.
THAT'S 3900 DIRECTLY FROM YOU...

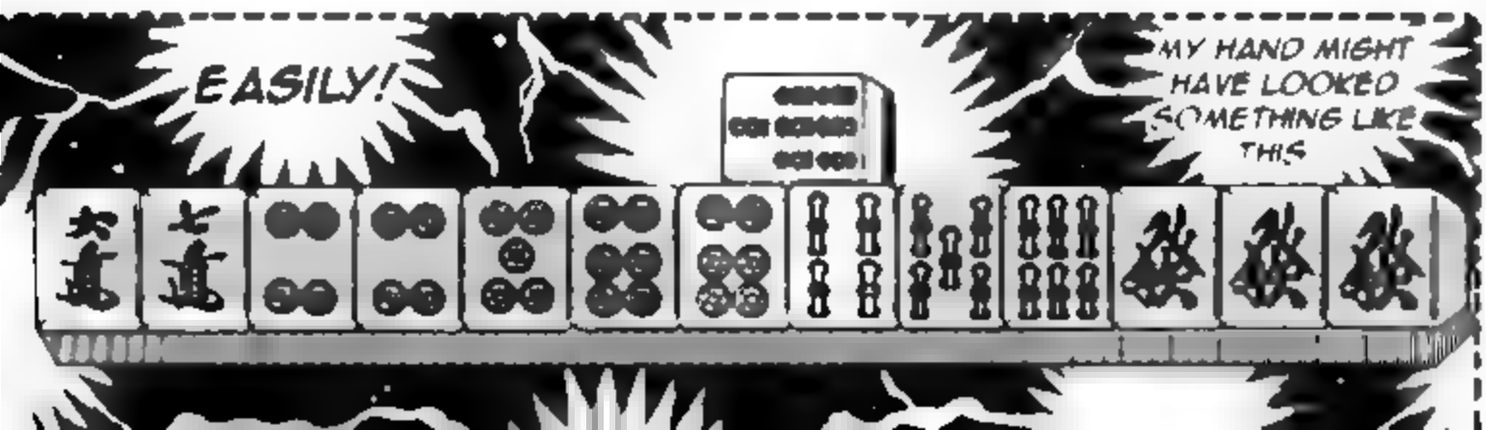
NNGH.
THE FIRST SES-SION'S OVER

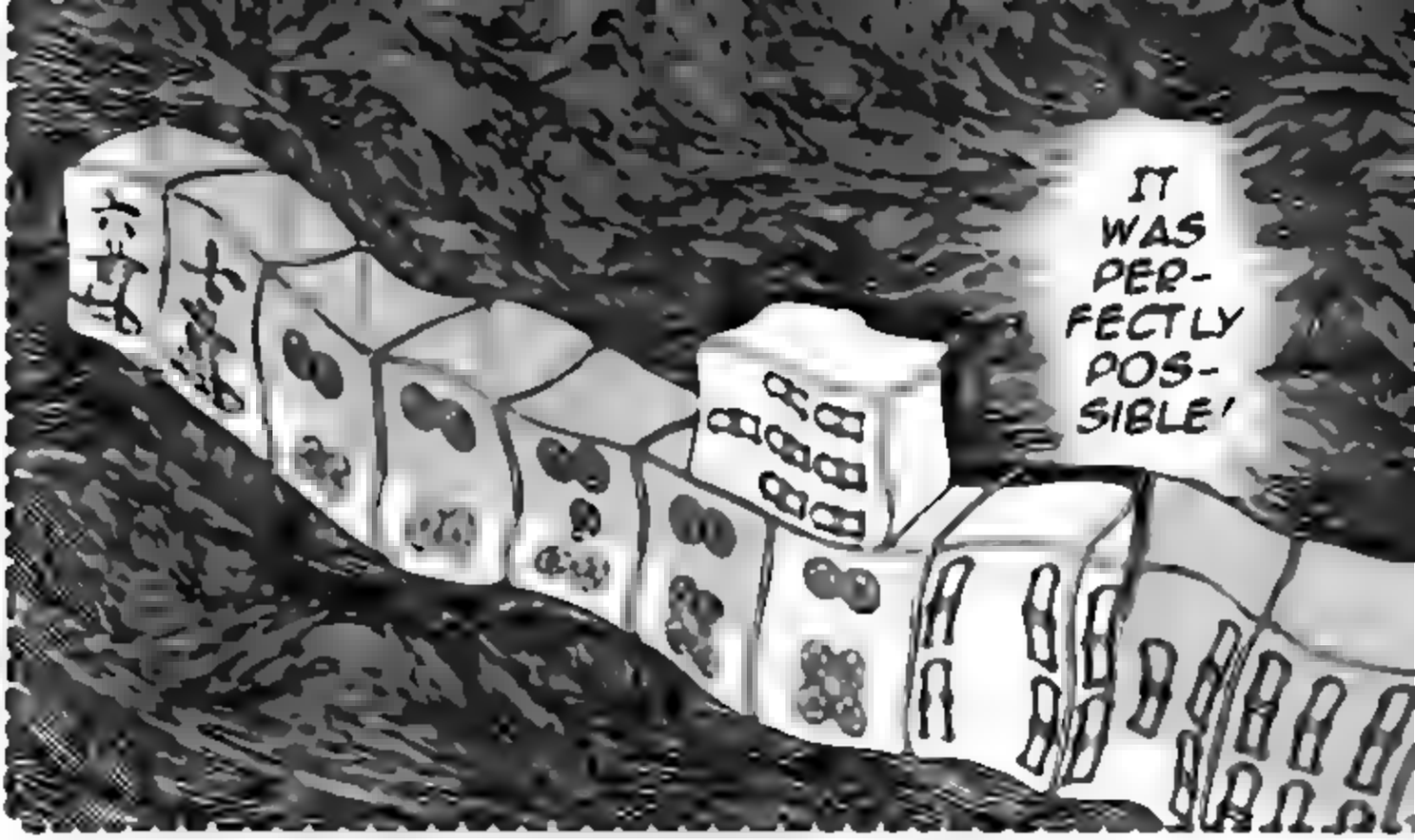
HAHH...!!

IT'S TRUE, IF HE GOT A DIRECT HIT ON ME IT WOULD'VE BEEN A DIRECT HIT
BUT THIS WAS THE LAST ROUND
SUZUKI'S 5-PIN..!!
WHY DID HE OVER-LOOK IT?!
THAT'S ABSURD!!


IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE THAT THE NEXT TILE WOULD BE 5-PIN, BUT
IF I DEAL 6-PIN FROM THE SHAPE OF 4456-PIN
OF COURSE
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD ENOUGH LEG ROOM FOR THAT!


I COULD HAVE PLAYED 6-PIN FROM A SHAPE LIKE THIS!
FOR EXAMPLE
IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOMETHING ELSE!
SINCE I HAD 3 OPAQUE TILES IN MY HAND


EASILY!
MY HAND MIGHT HAVE LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE THIS

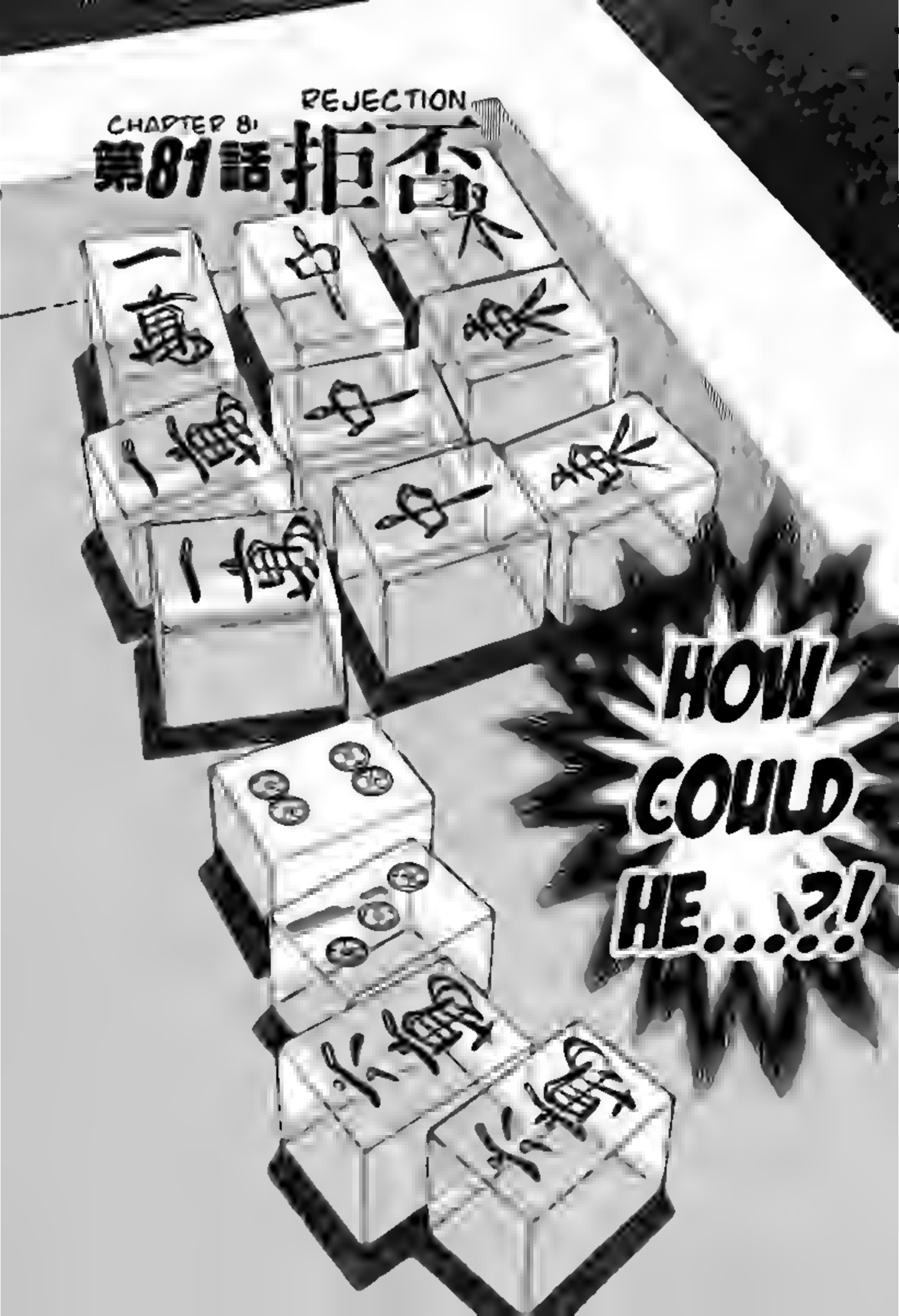

IT WAS PER-FECTLY POS-SIBLE!

HOW COULD HE...?!
IT WAS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE, SO...

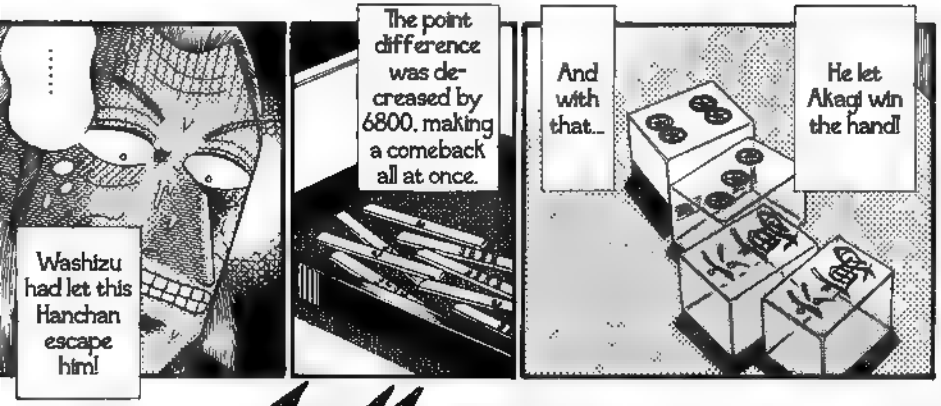
CHAPTER 81

第81話 拒否

REJECTION

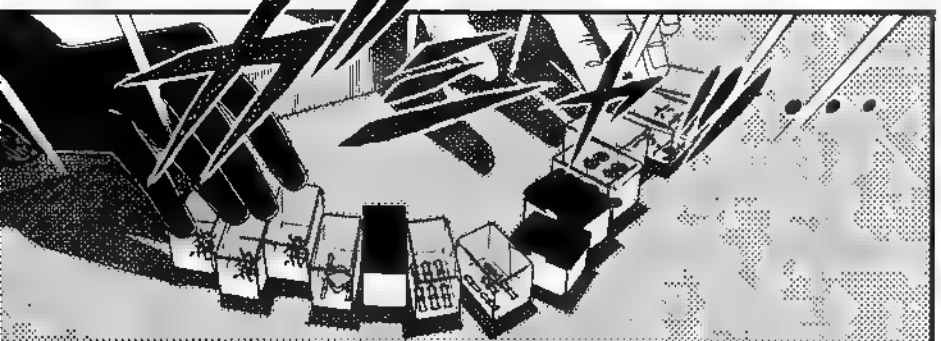


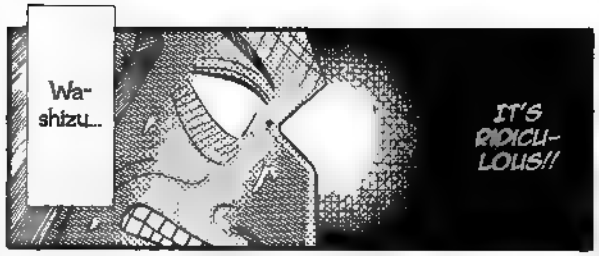
ざわ
ざわ


Washizu had let this Hanchan escape him!

The point difference was decreased by 6800, making a comeback all at once.

And with that...
He let Akagi win the hand!



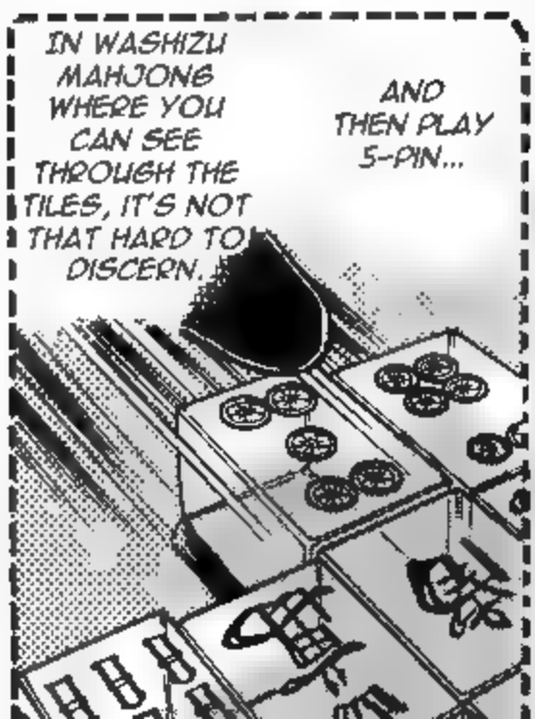

Washizu...
IT'S RIDICULOUS!!

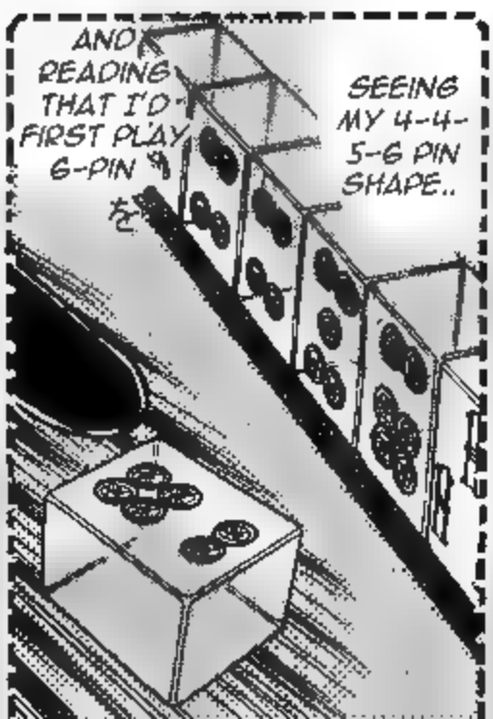
But Akagi had been aiming for that.
To see if it was safe to play himself...
Had had his underling play the 5-pin...

ざわ

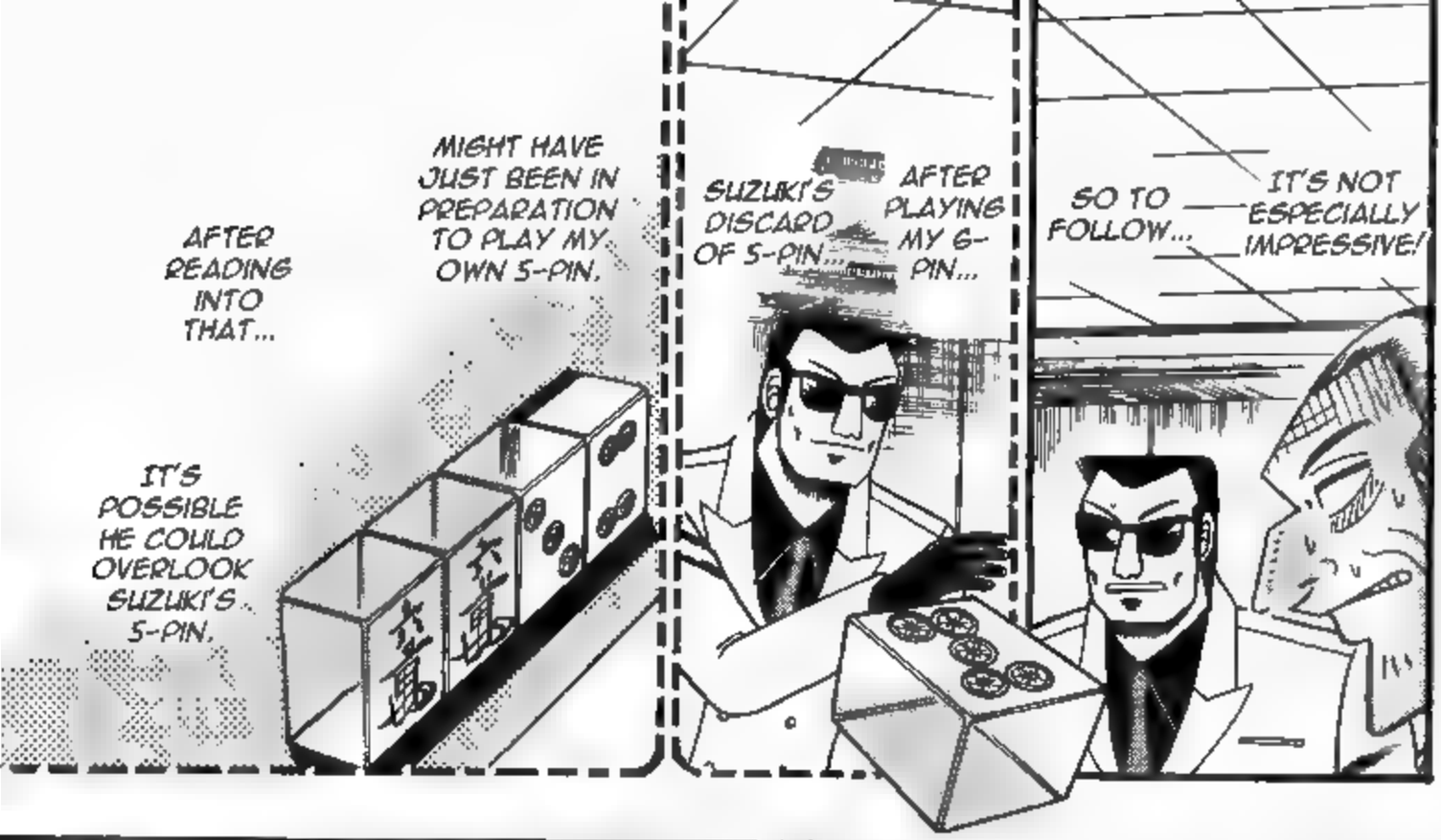
WOULDN'T BE SO IMPRESSIVE.

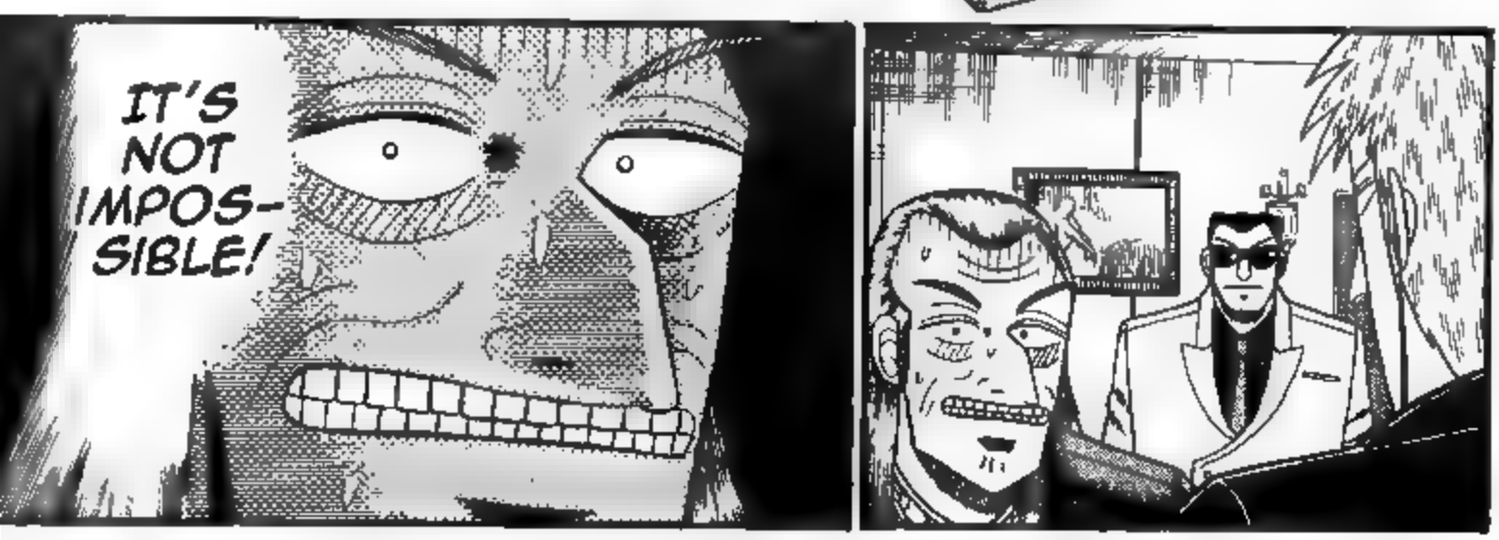
READING THAT I WOULD PLAY THE 5-PIN...
ORDI-NARILY


IN WASHIZU MAHJONG WHERE YOU CAN SEE THROUGH THE TILES, IT'S NOT THAT HARD TO DISCERN.
AND THEN PLAY 5-PIN...

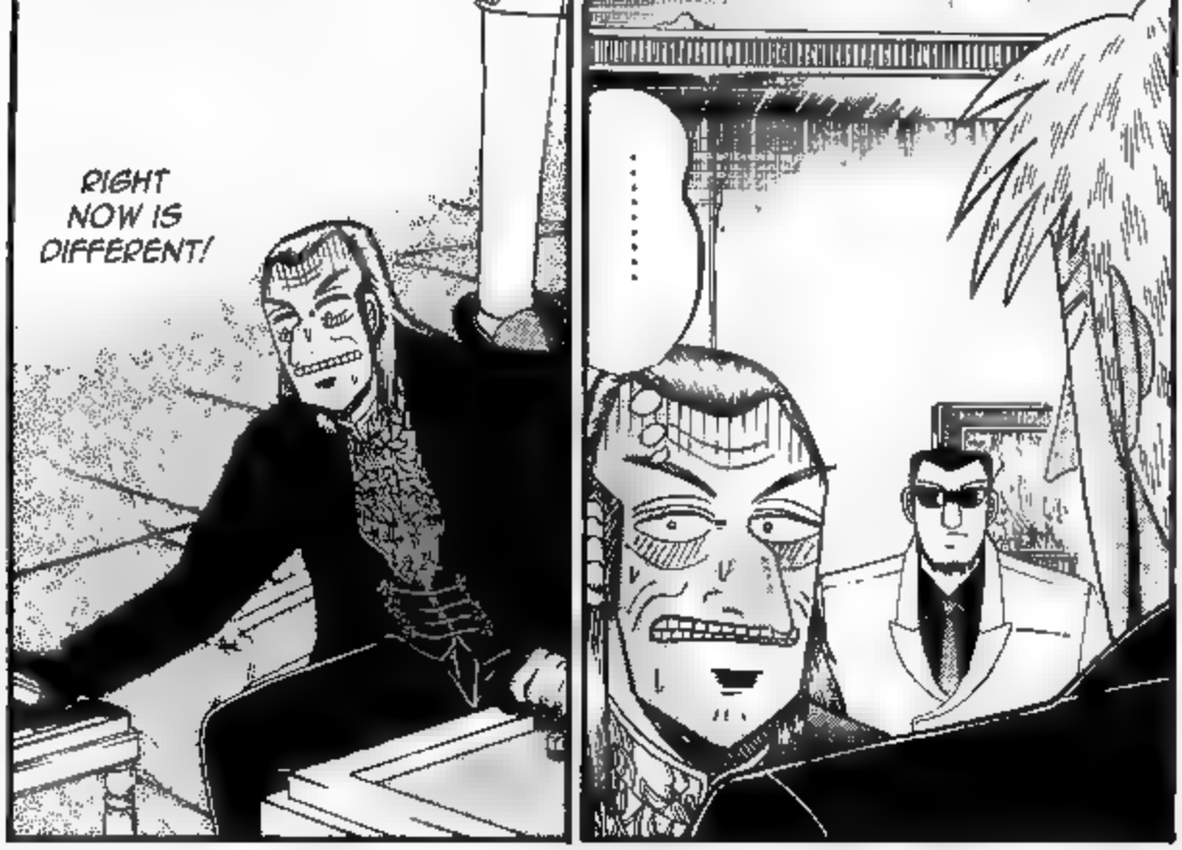

AND READING THAT I'D FIRST PLAY 6-PIN
SEEING MY 4-4-5-6 PIN SHAPE..

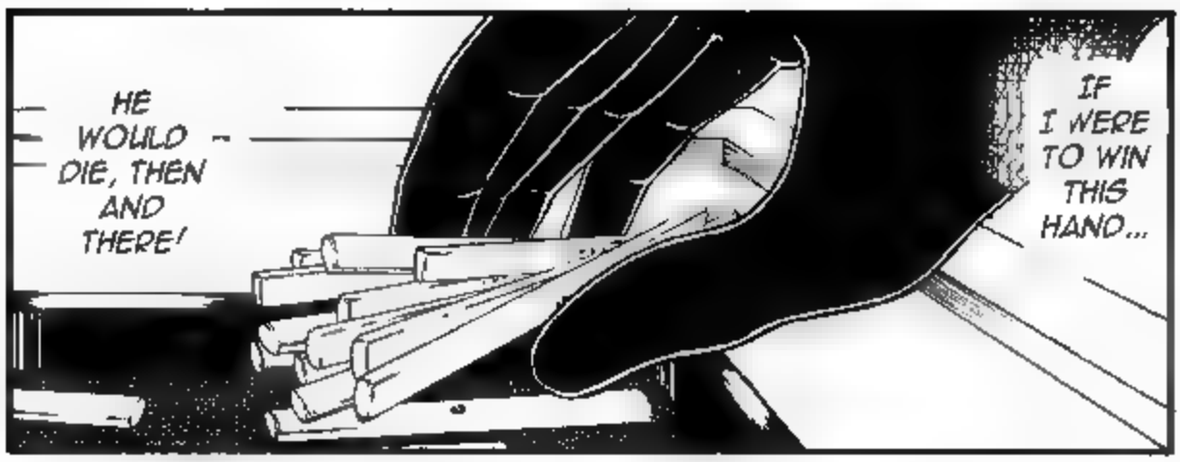
IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SUCH A GOOD READ


AFTER READING INTO THAT...
MIGHT HAVE JUST BEEN IN PREPARATION TO PLAY MY OWN 5-PIN.
SUZUKI'S DISCARD OF 5-PIN...
AFTER PLAYING MY 6-PIN...
SO TO FOLLOW...
IT'S NOT ESPECIALLY IMPRESSIVE!
IT'S POSSIBLE HE COULD OVERLOOK SUZUKI'S 5-PIN.


IT'S NOT IMPOS-SIBLE!

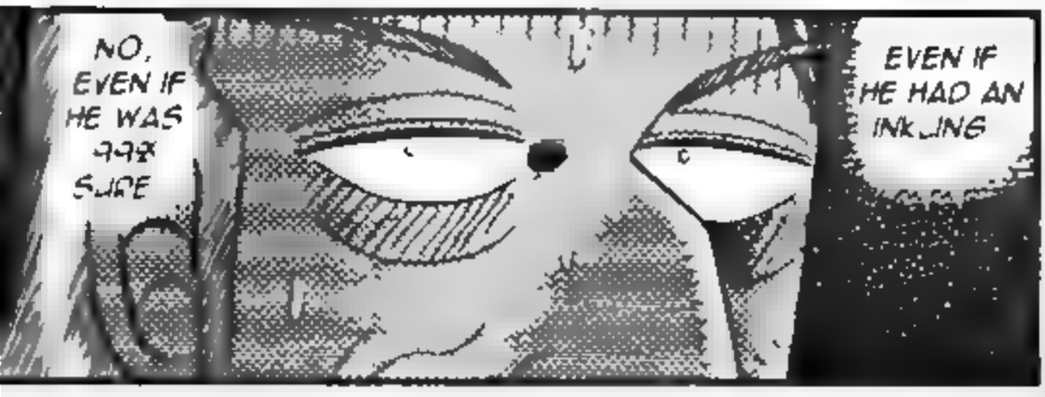
ALL OF THAT IS ONLY...
BUT..





IN AN ORDI-NARY SITUA-TION!

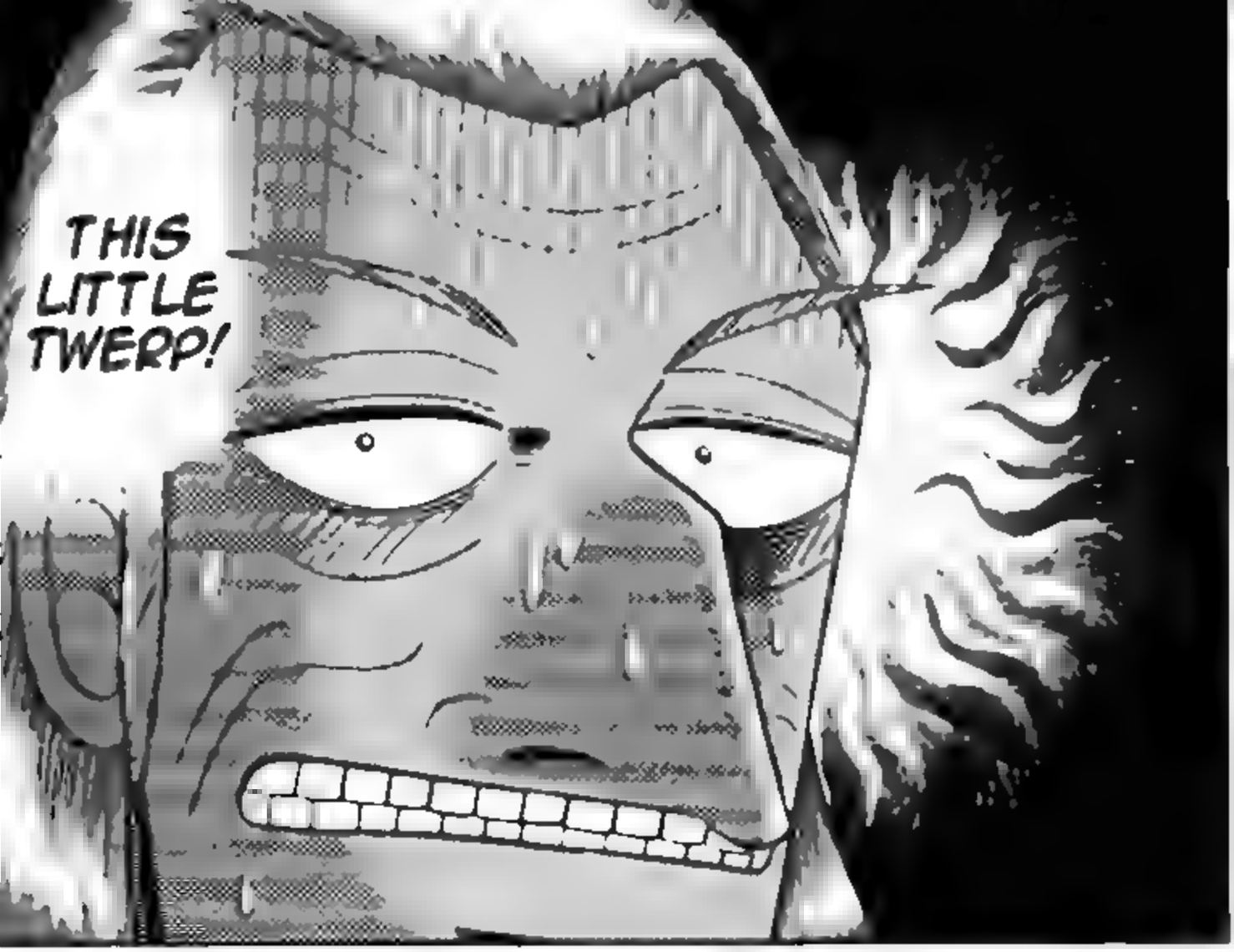
HE WOULD LOSE HIS LIFE!


NO, EVEN IF HE WAS ??? SUCE
EVEN IF HE HAD AN INKLING

SO IT'S NOT SOME-THING YOU CAN DO!

FOR ME TO DEAL MY OWN S-PIN..
THAT SUZUKI'S S-PIN WAS ALL IN PREPARA-TION...

AND IF HE WON THE HAND HE COULD STAY ALIVE!
AS LONG AS THERE'S THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF DOUBT IN HIS MIND.
SO LONG AS HE'S NOT POSITIVE
IT'S UNTHINKABLE THAT HE'D OVERLOOK SUZUKI'S 5-PIN!
.....


THIS LITTLE TWERP!

DON'T YOU

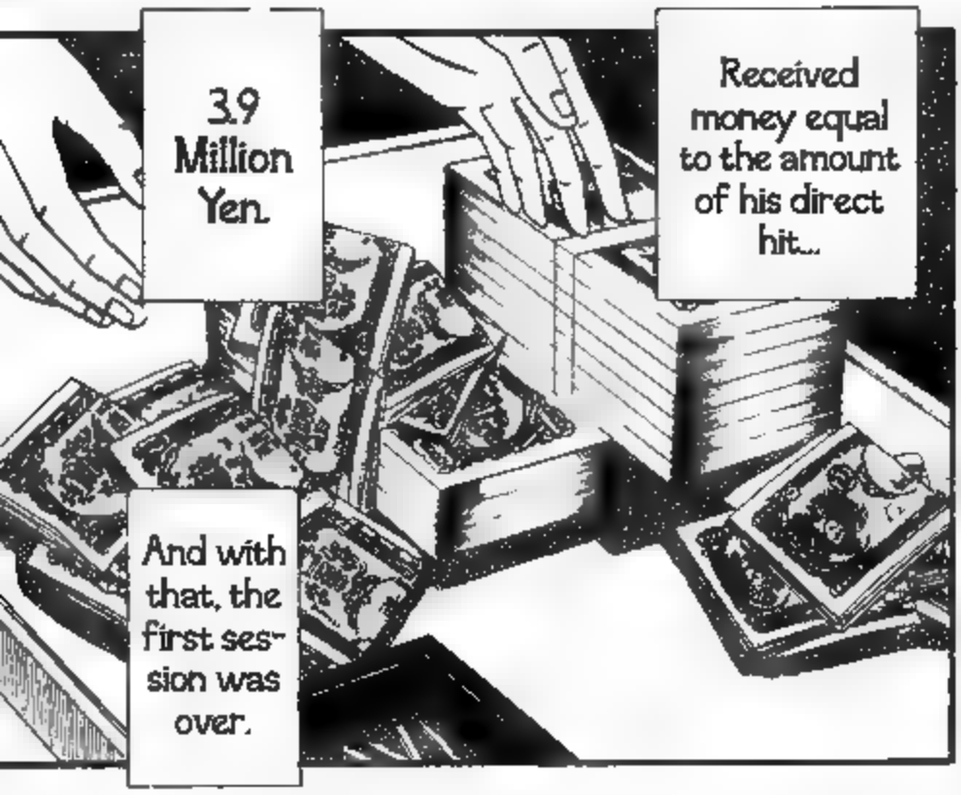
DON'T YOU WANT TO SURVIVE?!

DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE TOMORROW...

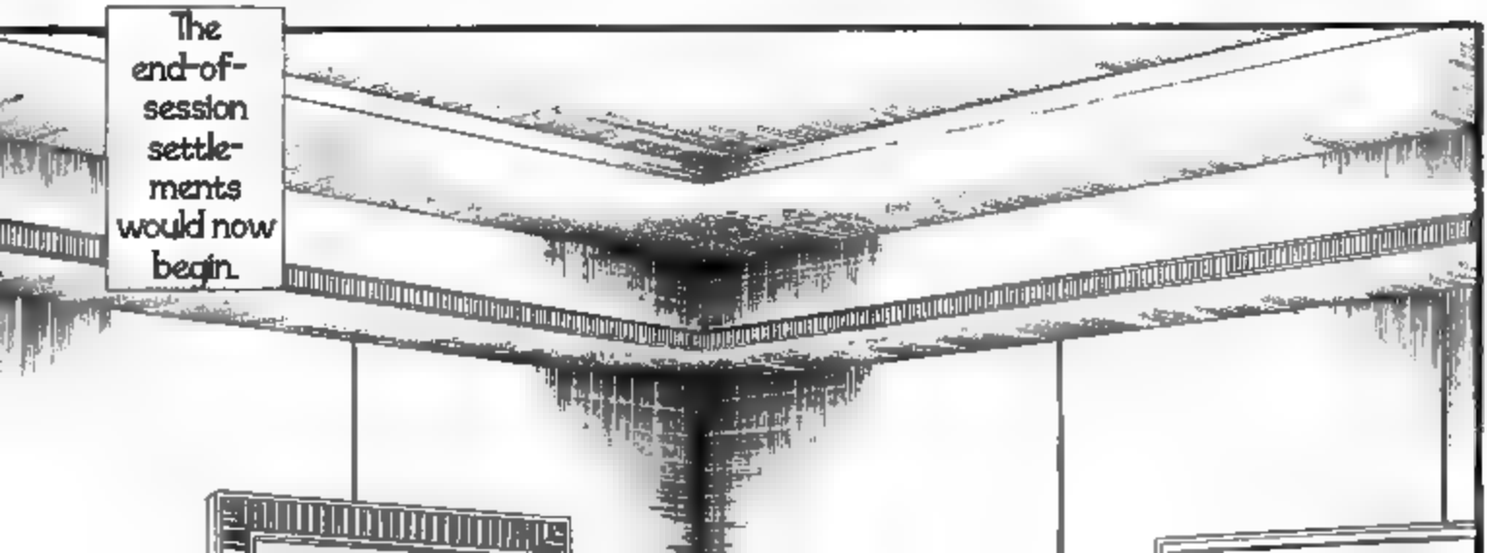
TO KEEP LIVING?!

YOU
LUNA-
TIC....?!

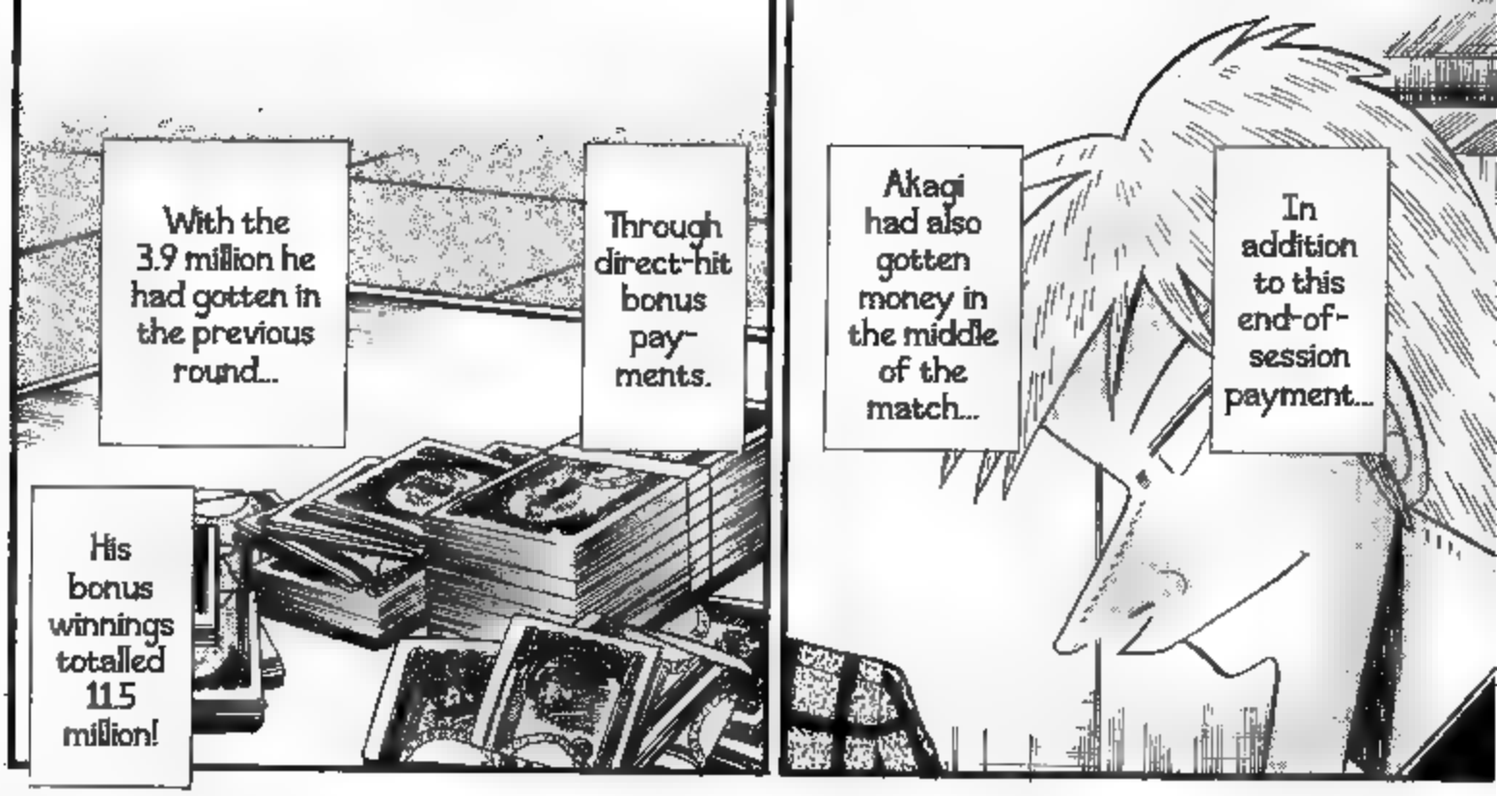
.....

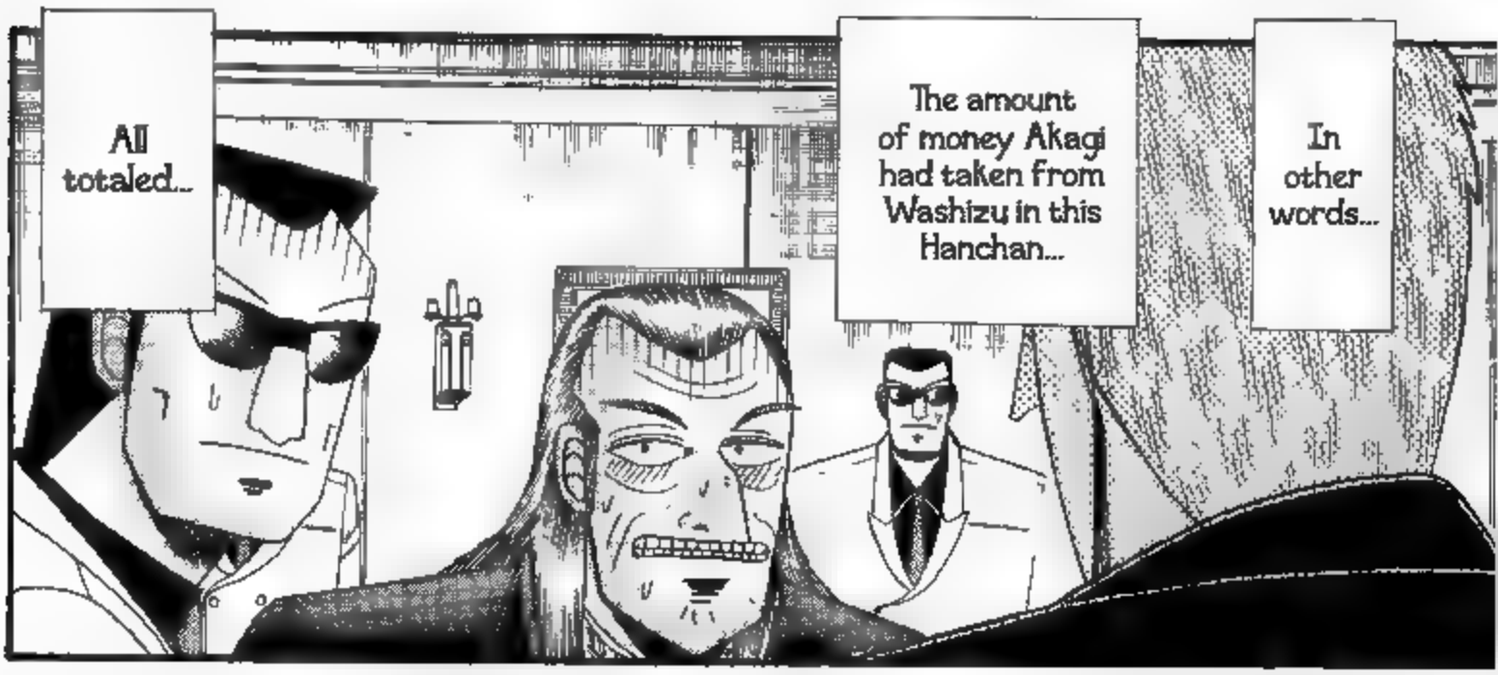

3.9 Million Yen.
Received money equal to the amount of his direct hit...
And with that, the first session was over.

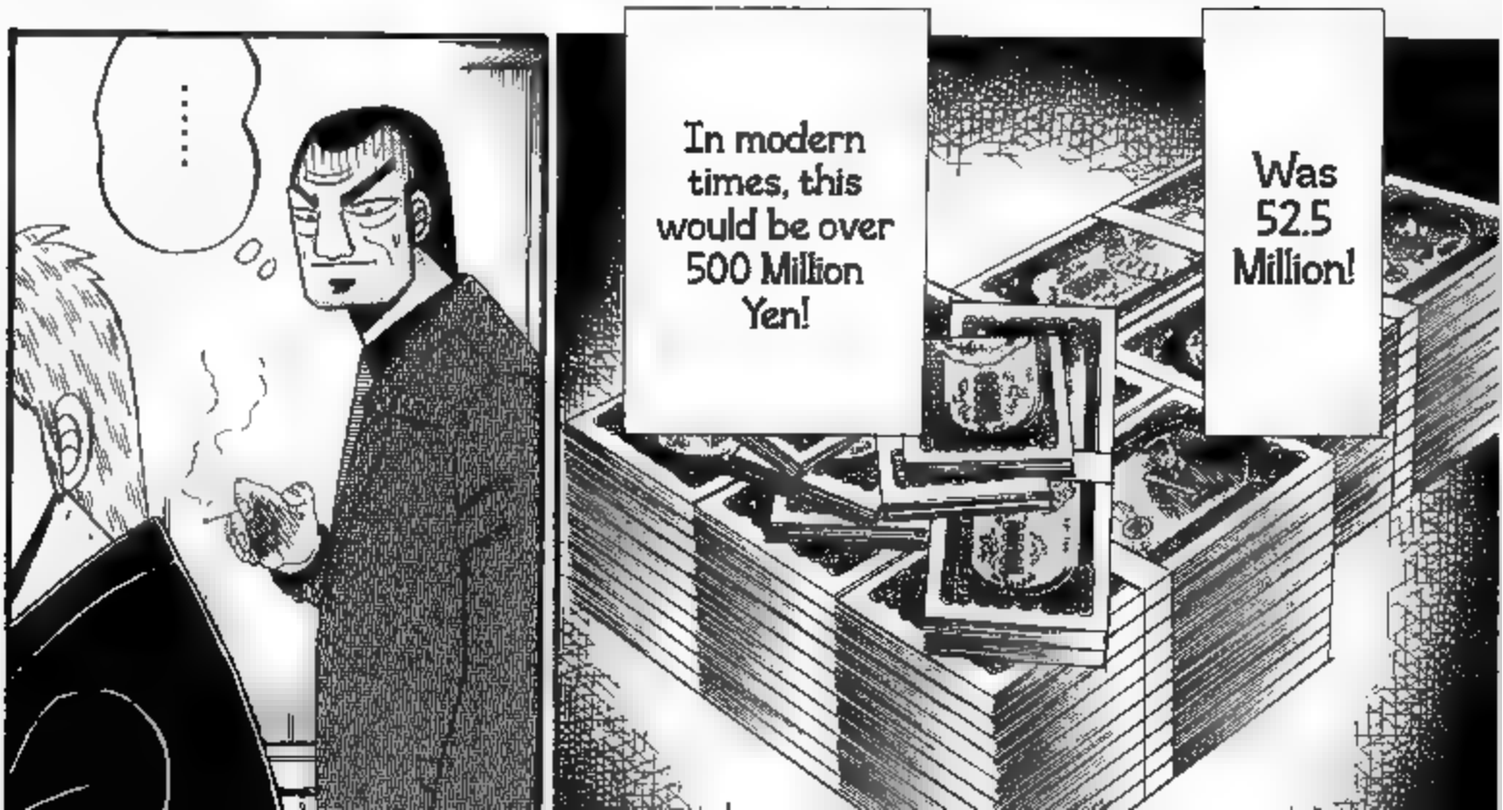
Akagi...


The end-of-session settlements would now begin.

.....
First place in the first session was Akagi with 38,500 points.
In second was Washizu with 37,500 points.
For what Akagi would receive at the end of the Session.
This 41,000 points formed the basis...
The difference between the two was 41,000 points.
On the other hand, Washizu only got the Uma (rank bonus) of 10,000...
Akagi's total was 88,500 points.
After adding to this Akagi's Oka (first-place bonus) of 20,000 and his Uma (rank bonus) of 30,000 points...
And it was not only that...
Made it 41 Million Yen!
Turning it all into money...
Totaling 47,500 points.


With the 3.9 million he had gotten in the previous round...
Through direct-hit bonus pay-ments.
His bonus winnings totalled 11.5 million!
Akagi had also gotten money in the middle of the match...
In addition to this end-of-session payment...


All totaled...
The amount of money Akagi had taken from Washizu in this Hanchan...
In other words...

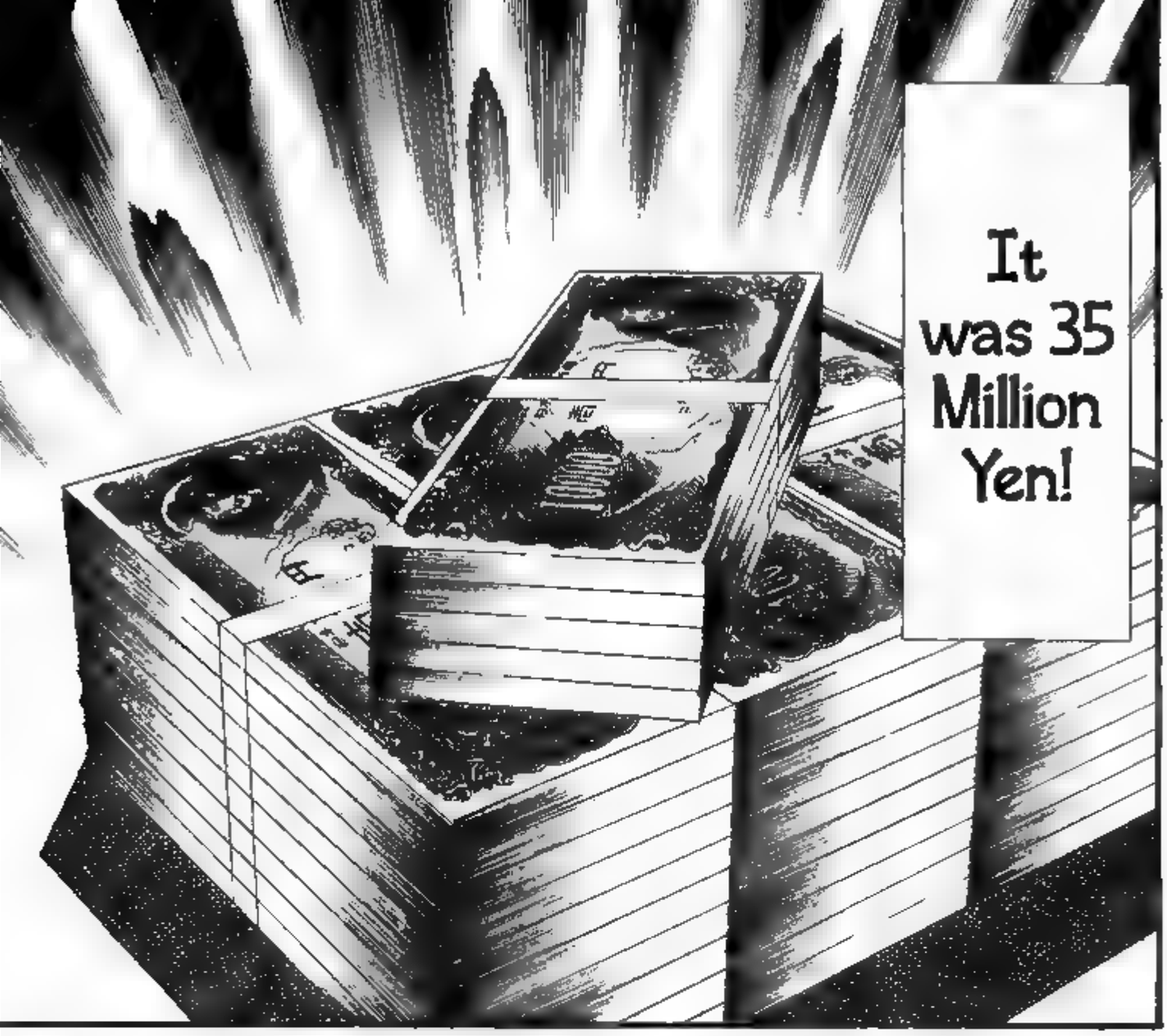

.....
In modern times, this would be over 500 Million Yen!
Was 52.5 Million!

HE MIGHT JUST WIN!

SO LONG AS HE DOES THAT
SURVIVE THE 6 SESSIONS LIKE THIS
YOU REALLY CAN'T HELP BUT THINK IT'S POSSIBLE
BUT FOR AKAGI
IF IT WERE ANYONE ELSE, THAT'D BE ONE THING

WE CAN SEIZE IT!

.....
WASHIZU'S ENTIRE FORTUNE!!


It was 35 Million Yen!

Was 41,000 points' worth, or 41 Million Yen.
How-ever...
The amount of money Akagi had earned by the time this Hanchan was over...
It was true...
.....

He would want to replenish his blood supply.

Going into the next Han-chan...

He would have to get it back.

Therefore...

Akagi had also lost 600 ccs of blood over the course of the match.

Washizu would be able to steal it all back with direct hits.

Once the 2nd session began...

No matter how much money he got, it would all be as good as scrap paper.

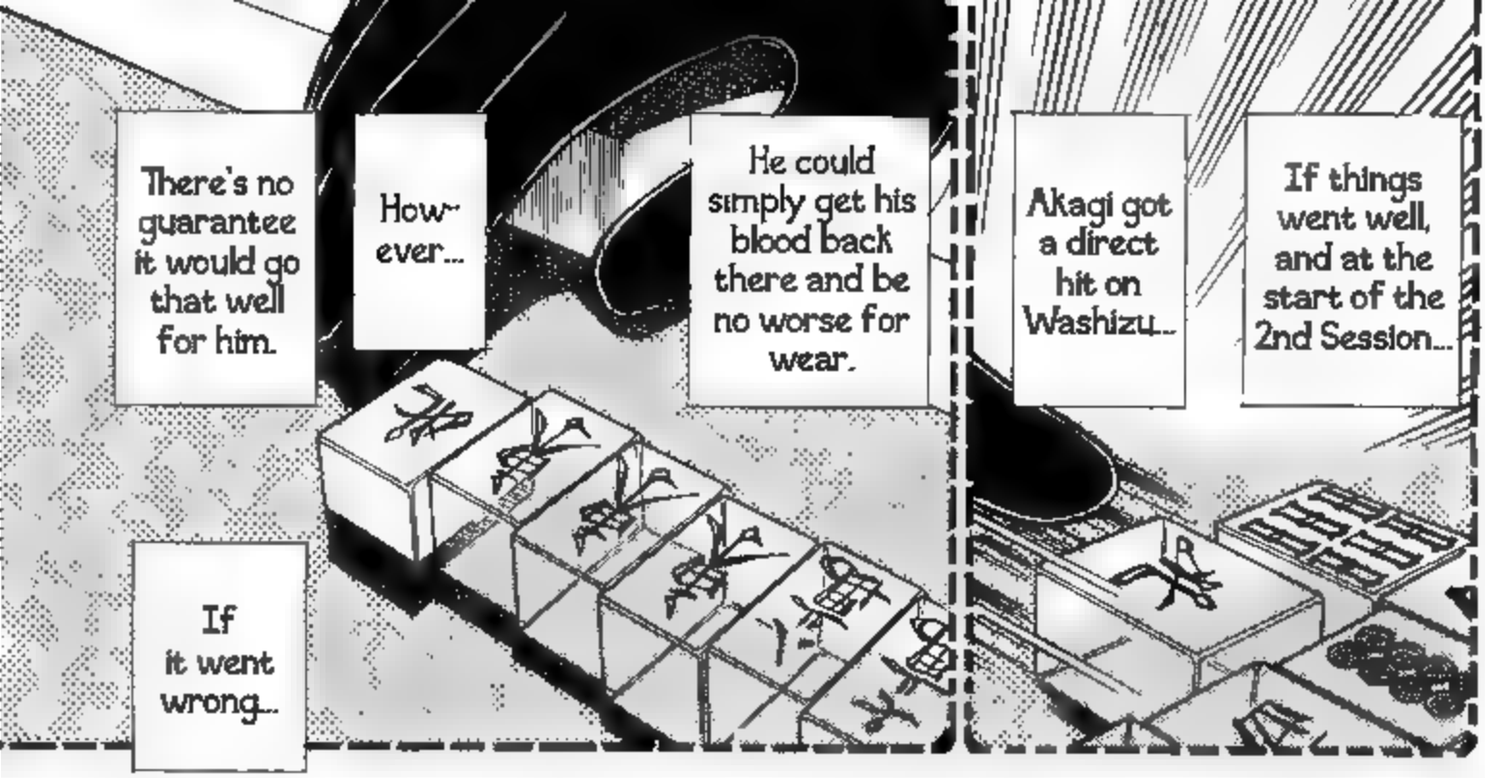
If he didn't take this chance...

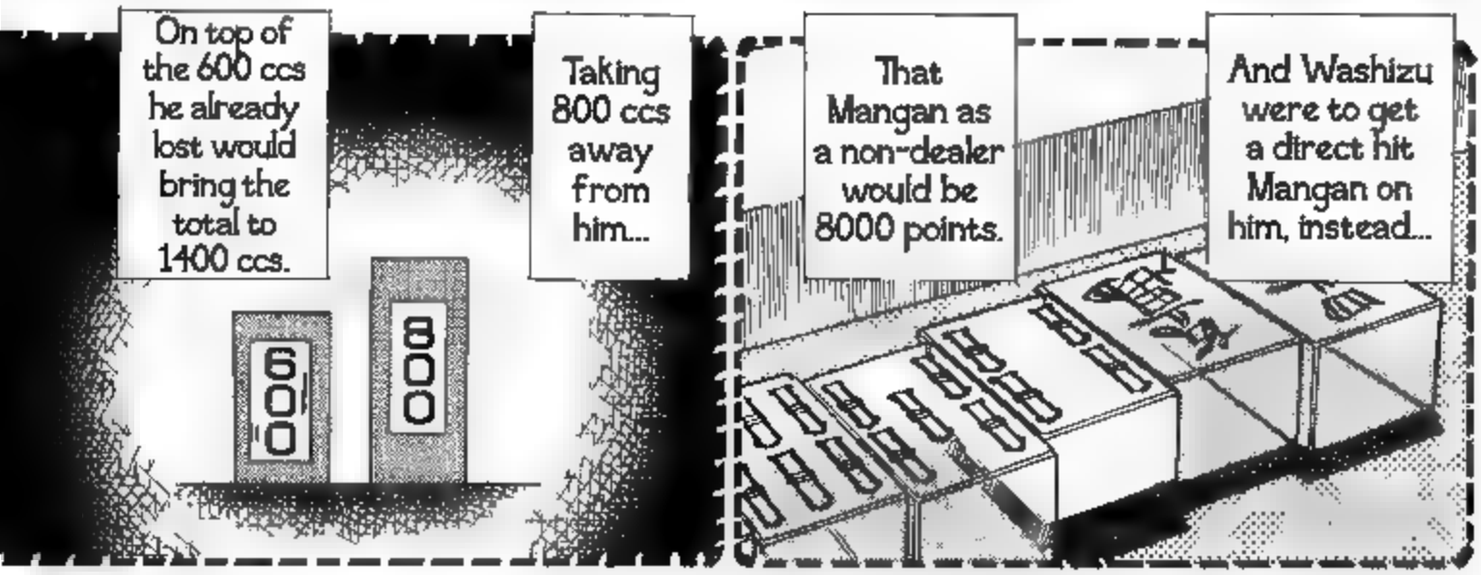
True.

He would have to give up money equal to the amount of blood he had lost.

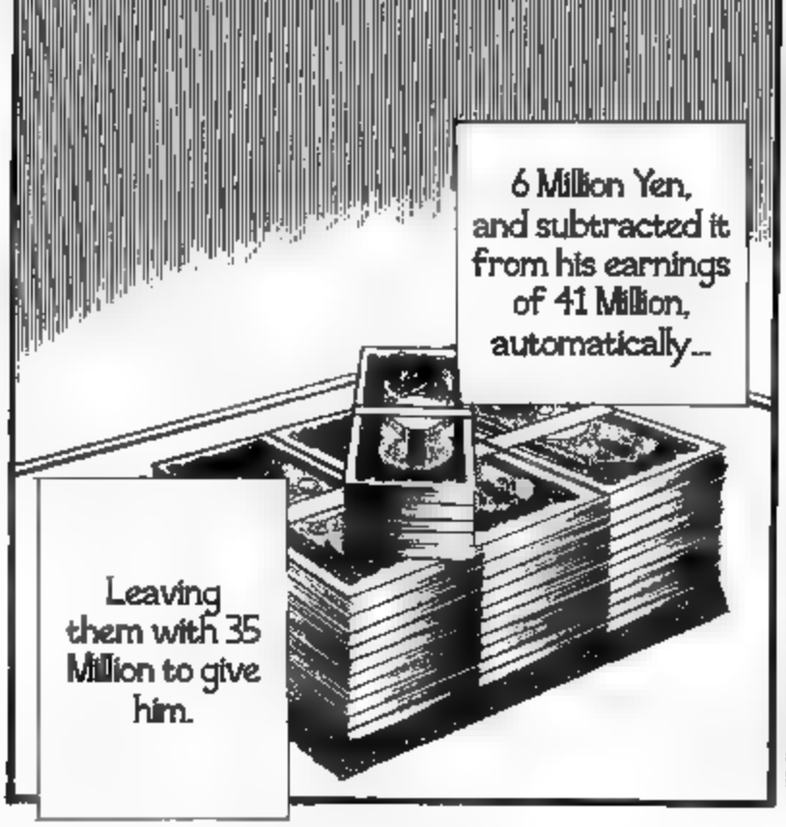
In order to prevent losing his life through direct hits...

250
200
50

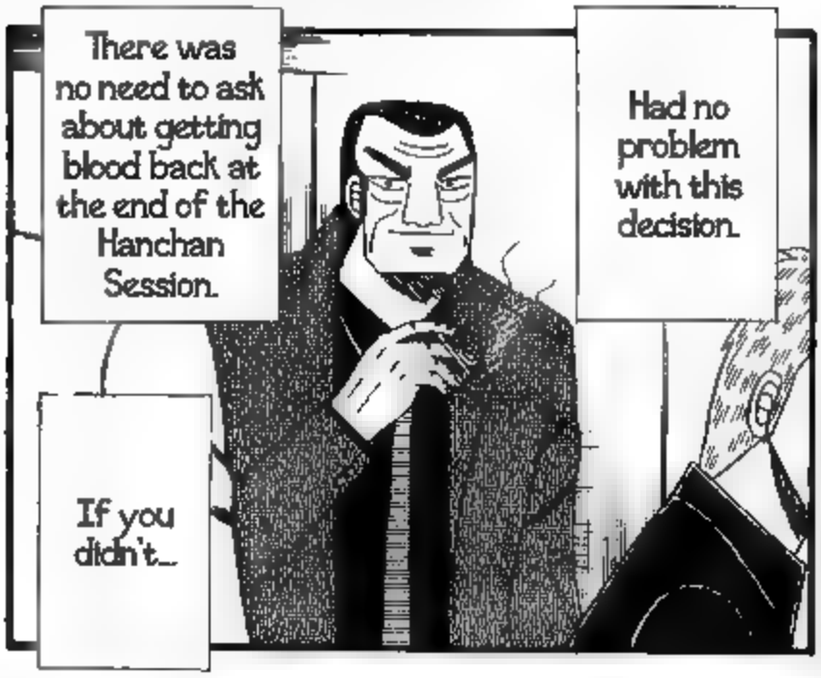

There's no guarantee it would go that well for him.
How-ever...
He could simply get his blood back there and be no worse for wear.
Akagi got a direct hit on Washizu...
If things went well, and at the start of the 2nd Session...
If it went wrong...


On top of the 600 ccs he already lost would bring the total to 1400 ccs.
Taking 800 ccs away from him...
600
800
That Mangan as a non-dealer would be 8000 points.
And Washizu were to get a direct hit Mangan on him, instead...

It was a matter of fact!
Anyone you ask would say to get the 600 ccs back, here!
It's only natural for him to get his blood back, here.
So consider-ing that...
He would start to get light-headed.
Even if he wouldn't die with that...
That would be much too dan-gerous!


6 Million Yen, and subtracted it from his earnings of 41 Million, automatically...
Leaving them with 35 Million to give him.

Washizu's side took money equal to that 600 ccs...
Thusly...


There was no need to ask about getting blood back at the end of the Hanchan Session.
Had no problem with this decision.
If you didn't...

Ohgi, Yasuoka and the rest of them...

SORRY, BUT...

HM-HMM
How could you possibly make it all 6 sessions?

I WANT ALL MY WINNINGS TO BE IN MONEY!
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.

WHAT...?!

……
ざわ…
HM-HMM...
YOU'LL DIE JUST LIKE THAT!
YOU'LL DIE IF YOU UNDERESTIMATE WASHIZU TOO MUCH!
AKA-GI?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU...
FOR ME TO DIE...
?……
HUH...?
DYING JUST LIKE THAT IS FINE BY ME.
……
ざわ…
AKAGI!
THAT'S JUST STUPID!!
ざわ…
ざわ…
AKAGI ...?!
……
COME HERE A MINUTE!
HEY...

LETTING WASHIZU THINK THAT WILL GIVE HIM HOPE.
I'LL DIE.
OHGI-SAN...

WITH JUST ONE MORE, LITTLE SHOVE...
WITH JUST ONE MORE PUSH...

EVEN WHEN THERE'S RISKS...
PEO-PLE...

LET'S NOT TAKE AWAY WASHIZU'S HOPE!

Akagi 9 / Fin
アカギ⑨／完

CAN BE DRAGGED ALONG IF THERE'S HOPE!

Mahjong Legend Akagi
The Genius who Descended into the Darkness
闘牌伝説アカギ ~闇に降り立った天才~

CHAPTER 74
PRESENTED BY
FKMTKRAZY

TRANSLATED BY
SONICKRAZY

CLEANED BY
TAMBUR

TYPESETTING BY
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